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CHRONICLE

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Actors from the Wintershall Players gather in Trafalgar Square for a public performance of *The Passion of Jesus* on Good Friday SWNS

Inquest into death of TV antiques star

Gems expert suffered psychotic episode in hospital five weeks after having baby

BY STAFF REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

An *Antiques Roadshow* expert who died after suffering from postpartum psychosis was restrained and kept in isolation after punching a nurse, an inquest heard.

Sotheby's jewellery expert Alice Gibson-Watt, died in hospital following a psychotic episode in November 2012 five weeks after giving birth.

The 34-year-old had to be restrained by paramedics and police officers in the back of an ambulance after they were called to her Fulham home, it was said.

She was taken to casualty and then transferred to a mental health ward where she was restrained again after attacking staff.

Mrs Gibson-Watt was then placed in isolation but the next day suffered a cardiac arrest and was rushed to hospital, the jury heard.

She underwent emergency surgery after a tear was found on her liver causing serious internal

bleeding and she died five days later.

But West London Coroner's Court heard her medical records from the mental health unit had either been "lost or mislaid."

Mrs Gibson-Watt gave birth to her first daughter Chiara Charlotte in October 2012. Her husband Anthony Gibson-Watt described the 'deeply traumatic' events of November 13, 2012 when his wife began crawling around on all fours and screaming her daughter wasn't safe and was dead.

She was first taken to Chelsea and Westminster A&E, where she was assessed, before being taken to Lakeside Mental Health Unit at the West Middlesex University Hospital, run by West London Mental Health Trust.

The inquest heard from Lakeside ward manager Suzanne Hughes who said: "I first met her when she first came to the ward on November 14 at around midday.

"At the time I met her she was quite exhausted, distressed and

traumatised. I spoke to her and she was calm and coherent and engaging in conversation. She was still concerned about her baby and was quite tearful."

At first doctors were happy with her progress and Ms Hughes believed Mrs Gibson-Watt might even be able to be referred to the mother and baby unit. But the following day Ms Hughes said: "I got in and the staff told me Alice's mental state had deteriorated over night. She was acting bizarrely."

Mrs Gibson-Watt had locked herself in her room, stopped staff coming in and then tried to punch Ms Hughes, jurors heard. Doctors decided to section her and increase the number of observations on her.

That afternoon her condition deteriorated again and Ms Hughes added: "It was reported to me by staff that the nurse who was observing her was having difficulty with Alice. She had punched her and she was quite aggressive and was very distressed."

The alarm was raised and a med-

ical team restrained her and took her to the ward's seclusion room where she was laid down on her stomach and given anti-psychotic medication.

She said: "This was the last time I saw Alice. She was very distressed and moving her arms and banging the bed up and down. She was still face down when we left the room."

The court heard when Mrs Gibson-Watt arrived on the ward she should have had observations either hourly or every 15 minutes.

However, Michael Mylonas QC, representing Mrs Gibson-Watt's family, pointed out there was no records of the observations made by staff. When asked if that situation was appropriate or responsible for when looking after mental health patients, Ms Hughes said: "It is unfortunate that those records were lost or they were mislaid."

Mrs Gibson-Watt died at a specialist intensive care unit at Kings College Hospital in south London on November 20.

The inquest continues.

Another fine mess

A BEMUSED motorist was stunned to see a traffic warden slapping a car with a ticket while his moped was parked on a double yellow corner.

Daniel Joseph, who lives in Hammersmith, had nipped to a shop near his work site when he saw the unruly warden parked dangerously.

The 37-year-old spotted the ironic scene in Barking, where he was working as a carpenter, and blasted the jobsworth warden for their bad parking.

Daniel said: "I went to the shop to get a sandwich and a newspaper during my morning tea break when I saw the warden. He was parked right outside the Thames Ward police office on the corner of the roundabout.

"The warden was giving someone a ticket who was parked in a bay while what he was doing was far worse, he was parked on double yellows on the junction. It seems a bit ironic that they're parking badly while fining other people."

Barking and Dagenham Council were unavailable for a comment.

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DIRECTORS
Philip Evans

07796 951991

Hannah Walker

020 883 59721

Tim Dixon (Editor)

07739 300485

Editorial email
tim@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

Advertising
Sales Executive

Seniha Slowinski 0208 768 4930 / 07800 607121

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Kate and Leti to 'face off' - pages 6 and 7


Calling all abseilers! Help hospital to save more

IMPERIAL College Healthcare Charity is calling for thrill-seekers to abseil down St Mary's Hospital in Paddington in support of children's intensive care.

The event is taking place on April 26, to raise money for the charity's More Smiles Appeal.

The fundraising appeal aims to raise £2 million to upgrade and expand the hospital's children's intensive-care unit, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility that matches the expertise of its staff.

Participants will scale 150 feet from the rooftop of the hospital's Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother building, taking in spectacular views of London on the way.

Full training will be provided on the day of the abseil and it is open to everyone over 18 years old including staff, supporters and members of the public.

The children's intensive-care unit is currently unable to meet demand and is often forced to turn away many children in need of its services.

The expansion will nearly double capacity from eight to 15 beds, meaning up to 200 more critically ill children can be treated each year.

The upgrade will also include new equipment, a dedicated parents' room and a private room allowing space for doctors and nurses to provide emotional support and care to families whose children are seriously ill.

One of the participants, Alan Monsey, 55, will be abseiling in honour of his granddaughter, Emmie-Rae Barker, who was born with multiple life-threatening heart defects, causing her to spend a total of eight months in various hospitals.

Emmie-Rae was admitted to St Mary's Hospital in 2014 at just three months old when she went into respiratory failure due to pneumonia. Two weeks later she was readmitted after going into respiratory arrest due to heart failure.

Emmie-Ray has since under-



Flashback to last year's abseil organised by Imperial College Healthcare Charity. Now the charity is looking for abseilers to take part in the 2017 event

gone major surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital and her family say that her health has improved in leaps and bounds.

Alan said: "Something like this stops you and makes you realise what life is and what's precious to you. Everyone we spoke to was great. The staff were fantastic. We'll continue to fundraise for it; it's such a great cause."

Thanks to the generous support of the public and the charity's supporters, the appeal has raised £1.4 million so far – but continued support is needed to

help get this vital work completed.

The unit is a world-leader in the understanding and treatment of serious infections in children, such as pneumonia and meningitis.

It also specialises in other life-threatening conditions including severe trauma, neurological conditions, children who have undergone surgery and those with lifelong conditions such as sickle cell disease.

The unit's expertise recently featured in the popular BBC Two

documentary *Hospital*, in which 18-year-old patient Debbie underwent a lifesaving bone-marrow transplant.

The trust is one of the few in the country where a transplant can be done with a 50 per cent match, allowing her brother to donate his bone marrow to her, curing her of sickle cell disease.

Imperial College Healthcare Charity raises funds for the five hospitals of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust which serve a large area of Central, West and north-west London.

This is used to provide grants for clinical research, equipment and healthcare projects.

The More Smiles Appeal is run in partnership with COSMIC – the charity for the children's intensive-care unit at St Mary's Hospital.

The remainder of the £10 million redevelopment project of the unit is being jointly funded by the trust and Imperial College Healthcare Charity.

There is a registration fee of £30 to participate in the abseil and a minimum fundraising target of £80.

For more information and to sign up, visit the More Smiles Appeal website moresmiles.org.uk.

Alternatively, call Lauren Levy at the charity on 0203 312 5694, or email lauren.levy@imperial.nhs.uk.

Contacting your council

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Parking - penalty charges
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Grants fund now open for applications

KENSINGTON and Chelsea's Corporate Services Small Grants Fund is now open for grant applications from voluntary and community organisations working in the borough which have charitable objectives.

Organisations that want to apply for funding must provide at least one of the following services:

- information and advice;
- community engagement;
- infrastructure and capacity building.

In the past the council has awarded grants to projects for youth peer-to-peer mentoring and training on employment issues; the provision of some costs for community events, including marketing materials; essential computer equipment/technology, or for rental of such equipment for initiatives such as teaching children computer science, mathematics and English; training for volunteers and volunteer expenses and small-scale improvements to facilities, refurbishment and repairs of buildings and spaces, for example installation of a stairlift.

In total, £15,000 is available in this round of funding, with a further £15,000 available later in the year.

The closing date for applications is Saturday (April 22).

For further information, including the criteria, and details of how to apply, go to rbkc.gov.uk/smallgrantsfund.

£500,000 expansion

PIMLICO Plumbers has embarked on a £500,000 construction project to increase capacity at its Central London headquarters.

The company is adding an additional storey to Pimlico House in Lambeth to create a further 10,000 sq ft of space, which will enable the company to expand key departments across the business including the call centre and recruitment.

Construction of the extension is due for completion by the end of summer 2017.

To date, the 30,000 sq ft Pimlico House has undergone significant internal redesign and refurbishment to increase capacity, most recently to enable the expansion of its customer-service and 24-hour call-centre departments.

Revised plan could save bridge scheme



BY TIM DIXON
tim@londonweeklynews.co.uk

How the Garden Bridge might look

Pictures: Arup

THE Garden Bridge Trust may be about to put forward a new business case to London mayor Sadiq Khan in a bid to stop the £185 million scheme being scrapped, it has emerged.

An independent review into the scheme's financial viability recommended last week that the controversial project should be binned – even though it has already received £60 million of public funding.

The report to the mayor by senior Labour MP Dame Margaret Hodge said it would be difficult to justify giving any more cash to the initiative while the trust's finances were in such a precarious state.

She confirmed the proposed pedestrian crossing over the River Thames faces a funding gap of at least £70 million after costs escalated above £200 million and donors dropped out.

Sources are now suggesting that the trust is set to present a revised plan to the mayor's office this week, aimed at allaying concerns that taxpayers' money could be wasted if the project continues to receive support.

According to planning conditions, the Garden Bridge Trust has just over six months to get the bridge fully signed off and construction under way, otherwise planning consent for the scheme will lapse.

A joint venture of Bouygues Travaux Publics and Cimolai SpA was selected in the spring of 2015 to build the 366m-long Thomas Heatherwick-designed footbridge from Temple Tube station to the South Bank.

Although the project has been approved by both Westminster and Lambeth councils, Westminster's backing came with significant conditions.

The council stipulated that the bridge's yearly maintenance costs had to be underwritten as a guarantee that the bridge was financially viable in the long term.

After a campaign and subsequent judicial review of the scheme, the Thames Central Open Spaces group secured similar planning conditions for Lambeth's approval of the scheme.



MP Dame Margaret Hodge

The authority to approve such measures lies with the mayor of London.

According to a *Construction News* report, until the maintenance costs for the bridge are signed off, the trust also cannot formally acquire the site of the scheme's south landing point from current owners Coin Street Community Builders.

Mr Khan's predecessor Boris Johnson had committed to underwrite the maintenance costs. However, he left office before the agreement was finalised.

Mr Khan has still to commit to underwriting the maintenance element of the scheme.

He previously stated that he would not agree to any more of London taxpayers' money for which he is re-

sponsible to be allocated to the project.

Construction News reported: "The mayor's office confirmed that the Garden Bridge Trust had not received any further payment since March 2016, and the trigger for further funds to be released would be dictated by construction getting under way."

This year TfL deferred a payment of £10 million to the Garden Bridge Trust that was due to be initially activated when the construction phase commenced.

However, due to delays with the project, the funds have now been allocated further back in the financial year. Construction of the Garden Bridge had initially been slated to start in 2015.

The report by Ms Hodge called for the mayor to take a hit on the project and accept that public funds had been lost, rather than plough any more taxpayer money into the project.

The report concluded that the trust had a capital funding gap of approximately £70 million and had failed to secure any new private backers since August 2016.

It stated: "It is better for the taxpayer to accept the loss than to risk the additional demands if the project proceeds."



Karabo Sankoloba with DLD staff members Louise Affleck and Peter Hopkins

'Remarkable' Karabo bags prestigious gong

A STUDENT from DLD College London received a much-coveted accolade at the prestigious CIFE awards. Karabo Sankoloba, 21, was presented with the DLD CIFE College Award by Lord Lexden OBE at a ceremony held at the House of Lords.

The event is hosted by the Council for Independent Further Education annually to celebrate the achievements of students during the academic year.

Karabo was selected by the Westminster Bridge-based college for both his academic and extra-curricular success during 2015-16.

He gained GCSE results which placed him in the top 10 candidates in Botswana and a well-deserved scholarship brought him to study in the UK at DLD.

A DLD spokesman said: "Blessed with an outgoing personality, boundless energy and a desire to gain as much as possible from his UK education, Karabo proved an exceptional student in all his subjects and a great asset to the DLD community."

"With a remarkable track record of 100 per cent in five maths modules in Year 12, Karabo has all the hallmarks of an outstanding mathematician. His A-level grades of A* in maths, further maths and physics and grade A in both chemistry and economics illustrate his academic ability and huge potential."

"Karabo managed his academic commitments while making a big contribution to college life, employing his musical ability in the ukulele and vocal groups, and all college functions. His well-developed people skills made him a clear choice for student ambassador and a popular college valedictorian."

Karabo said: "DLD College was more than just a school for me, it was like a second home. My peers and the staff were like a second family – one that I am proud to have been part of. I will forever cherish the time I spent there."

DLD principal Rachel Borland said: "Karabo is a breath of fresh air and he truly deserves to be the prize-winner. He is such a proactive member of the student body while maintaining impressive and high standards in his education."

Meet your local MP
Victoria Borwick

Thursday
27th April

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SW5 0BS

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Mayor's awards

RECENTLY, I once again had the great honour of attending the mayor's awards which, since 2000, have recognised the efforts of the many unsung heroes who work so tirelessly for the good of others.

I'm always humbled to hear the stories of the many inspirational men and women who live and work in Kensington and Chelsea.

How many times have we all seen a problem and talked about how something should be done?

Frances Manthos is someone who not only talked about a problem but didn't rest until she had found a solution. She is the founder and driving force behind the Calling London winter-coat campaign.

In the exceptionally cold winter of 2010, Frances and some friends were chatting and one of them, a teacher, told how pupils were coming to school without warm coats because their parents couldn't afford to buy them. Others in the group had seen elderly neighbours battling the elements in thin coats and they had all witnessed rough sleepers who had nothing to shield them from the bitter temperatures.

Determined to make a difference, Frances and her helpers set up an annual appeal for winter coats and there are now 50 drop-off points across London. Since 2011, more than 12,000 coats have been collected, sorted and redistributed to food banks, homeless shelters, refugees and children's groups. Coats that have been languishing in the back of wardrobes now bring comfort to those most in need.

I've written previously about the problem of social isolation and how it's a heartbreaking reality for many of our elderly residents. For 15 years, Zara Ghods has helped tackle this issue by volunteering and serving as a trustee at the Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older People which now has a membership of more than 1,300 people.

Zara has helped provide practical advice on issues such as household-energy suppliers and personal safety and security, as well as arranging social activities such as fashion and antique shows. There is no doubt that, thanks to Zara's work, the lives of many older residents have been transformed.

To contact the leader of the council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

NEWS FROM NICK



Leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Nick Paget-Brown, writes for you

The two award-winners highlighted in this column give just a glimpse of the remarkable people honoured.

I'd also like to say thank you to the rest of the winners:

● Charles Barber for his work as chief executive of Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice;

● Rosemary Clover-Brown for her voluntary work with homeless charity Glass Door;

● Malihe Khan for the service she has given over many years alongside her late husband to prevent older people living in North Kensington from becoming isolated;

● Sister Ancy Mathew for her work with charity Rehab which cares for women affected by prostitution and human trafficking;

● Amanda Sayers for her services to schools in the royal borough and her outstanding success bringing about improvements at Bevington, Park Walk and Sion-Manning;

● Mariya Stoeva for her services supporting those with disabilities and her work with Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea;

● Caroline Tod-Richardson for her services to the community in Earl's Court and her work in supporting older people and the arts.

I'd also like to pay tribute to the hundreds of people who, every day, make a difference to the lives of others – on behalf of myself and the council I'd like to thank you for all you do.

If you know someone who has given their services, paid or unpaid, for the benefit of others, the council would like to know.

Nominations will be sought in the autumn for the 2017 awards, which will be presented early in 2018.

For details, call the mayor's office on 020 7361 2431.

Kids 'learn maths better in morning'

KIDS are better at learning maths when lessons are in the morning, according to new research.

And results in history improve when children are taught it after lunch.

Adjusting school timetables to fit in with these preferences could lead to higher exam grades, say scientists.

The findings back research by psychologists who reckon children cope with repetitive tasks, like mathematics, more effectively early in the day.

But subjects that require restructuring, such as making sense of history, come more natural later.

Velichka Dimitrova, a postgraduate research student at Royal Holloway, University of London, said:

"Rearranging school schedules in a more optimal way does not require investment of additional resources and could be a cost-effective intervention leading to improvements in academic performance."

Her findings presented at the Royal Economic Society's annual conference at the University of Bristol are based on variations in the timetable in Bulgarian schools over more than a decade.

Data documenting academic achievement, absence rates and class schedules showed that when pupils took maths in the morning they did better than if they had studied the same class in the afternoon. The reverse was true of history.

Ms Dimitrova said our productive capacity for various mental tasks varies during different times of the day, so there can be times that are better to schedule a class depending on the school subject.

She said: "Observing a panel of students over a decade who had different timetable arrangements through a double shift



schedule, I can account for individual level differences and identify the time-of-the-day effects on student grades.

"My research shows scheduling mathematics classes in the morning and history classes in the afternoon results in better academic performance."

"Making use of these time-of-the-day effects, schools can rearrange schedules in a cost-effective way to improve student outcomes."

Both medical and social science research have shown sufficient sleep is a necessary prerequisite for performing well in cognitive tasks.

Later start times at secondary school have gained momentum, with a number of medical and educational institutions urging schools to abandon early start times.

But less is known on how teaching subjects at different times can affect the way teachers deliver a lesson, and how youngsters learn.

Pupils may absorb the same information in a different way, depending on varying productivity for academic tasks during the day and the constraints the school schedules impose on them.

The study follows research in the area of how shift work and unusual time patterns influence worker productivity.

Outside factors related to

timing have been found to influence the decisions of judges, financial-market participants and taxi drivers.

Earlier research by psychologists found performance in repetitive, automatised or overlearned tasks was better in the morning, while perpetual restructuring tasks had exactly the reverse pattern with better performance in the afternoon.

The necessity to save costs on education has led to suggestions of using a system of double-shift schooling, where some children attend classes in the morning and others in the afternoon.

Ms Dimitrova said: "Using a unique data set documenting academic achievement, absence rates and class schedules for more than a decade within a Bulgarian high school, I can account for individual level effects and identify the impact of different schedules."

"Using a policy change, which enabled a transition from a double shift to morning-only classes, I explore variation in scheduling, which is not selected by students, therefore allowing for a clearer identification of the time-of-the-day effects."

"Morning classes for mathematics and afternoon classes for history are the two subjects with statistically significant results."

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BRO

Impact of short-term rentals under scrutiny

IN response to growing concerns about the impact of short-term lets on the royal borough, Kensington and Chelsea's scrutiny committees have set up a working group to examine the issue in more detail.

Areas to be investigated include the impact on local communities, the housing market and businesses. To report problems associated with short-term letting, the following contact details should be used:

● for rubbish dumping, call Streetline on 020 7361 3001 or email streetline@rbkc.gov.uk;

● for noise complaints, call environmental health on 020 7361 3002 or email environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk;

● for planning breaches, call planning on 020 7361 3012 or email planning@rbkc.gov.uk.

The group's preliminary findings will be shared with residents at a public meeting at Kensington Town Hall on Wednesday September 13.

All findings will be included in a report which

is being prepared for October's public realm, and housing and property scrutiny committees.

Last December, following growing pressure from a number of London councils including Kensington and Chelsea, Airbnb announced that its systems will automatically limit the listing of whole flats and houses in Greater London to the statutory maximum of up to 90 nights a year.

The move means hosts now have to confirm they have the required planning permission to rent their property more frequently. It is already a breach of planning control for landlords to let out their homes on short-term lets for more than 90 days without planning permission.

Discussions are continuing with Airbnb and other providers to see how the present system can be enhanced further to improve monitoring and enforcement.

For more about the work of scrutiny or the review, visit rbkc.gov.uk/scrutiny or email scrutiny@rbkc.gov.uk.

Writing for you every week,
London's most outspoken
entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



Apprenticeships must be embraced as national priority

WHENEVER anyone asks about my past, I always stand by the fact that my apprenticeship was my vehicle to success. In fact, it may seem that I'm always banging on about them – but I've always practised what I preach.

My company, Pimlico Plumbers, has always taken on apprentices in our corporate offices, as well as among our team of engineers. It's no surprise then that I couldn't be happier that the Apprenticeship Levy has been launched.

Having said that, I was honestly irritated when I came across a survey conducted by Manpower, which said that 63 per cent of UK employers say they have little or no knowledge of the new system.

Nothing in the world is more unforgivable in business than when the very people in charge, who have been calling for change, can't be bothered to embrace new measures when government takes action.

So I ask, if these firms are meant to be offering opportunities for our young workers – how can they do it effectively if they're not even aware of their responsibilities?

For the uncertain 63 per cent, let's try to break it down.

Businesses with an annual wage bill of £3 million or more, whether private or public, will have to pay 0.5 per cent of their annual pay bill into the pot.

All employers will receive an annual sum of £15,000, to be offset against the bill. This effectively means that any employers with an annual pay bill of £3 million or less won't pay any levy.

Companies can then use the fund, which will get a 10 per cent top-up from the government, to pay for training companies, with the goal of creating three million apprentices by 2020.

For non-levy businesses with fewer than 50 employees, there's a new £1,000 in-

centive for a company taking on someone aged 16 to 18 in an apprentice role.

These proposals seem pretty clear to me – but here's where things can go awry.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development also released a survey that shows that nearly one third of firms have admitted that they will offset the cost of the levy by adapting existing training programmes as an alternative to apprenticeships. This is a pretty big loophole to contend with.

Don't get me wrong, training staff to the highest standard is important – but that's not what this levy is about. I'm afraid that one man's upskilling can very easily be seen as another man's escape clause.

Instead of large companies using the levy pot to strengthen their business and get more young people into work, they can sidestep the rules and do a bit of training on someone who's already in middle management. It's clear to me that we're in danger of failing on the core objectives of the levy; to invest in and improve young British workers.

The government has taken very positive steps towards making apprenticeships mandatory – but this loophole offers far too much wriggle room to make an effective change.

As a matter of urgency, it needs to be embraced as a national priority for the overall benefit of our next generation.

I would go so far as to say that we should be naming and shaming companies that refuse to step up and shoulder their social responsibility of investing in our future.

I'm confident that if these companies were made to take on even just one apprentice, they would see the extreme value in the enrichment they can offer to the next generation, as well as the many benefits they can get from these young apprentices.

US comic: Brits' sense of humour so soothing

**Interview
by Nicky
Sweetland**



Reginald D Hunter



THE world of stand-up is full of highly strung, noisy comics. But there is one comedian whose silky smooth delivery belies his sharp wit – Reginald D Hunter.

The merchant of mirth has become a regular on television panel shows, with his chilled-out joke-making adding a different dimension to the otherwise formulaic fun.

Reginald has been in the UK for almost two decades and has made numerous acclaimed appearances on television, most recently on *8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown* and the hugely popular BBC Two three-part series *Reginald D Hunter's Songs Of The South*, which documented his epic road trip from North Carolina to New Orleans through 150 years of American popular song.

It's stand up where Reginald originally plied his trade, however. And the American funnyman is returning to the stage and bringing his new show entitled *Some People v Reginald D Hunter* to audiences across the UK, including a visit to both Shepherd's Bush Empire and Richmond Theatre.

Reginald's work is often described as controversial.

However, his honest observations are meticulously

thought out – and the 48-year-old comedian has never been afraid to cover challenging issues.

I caught up with Reginald at the start of the tour.

He told me: "More than I expected, I would say that, so far, this show seems to be a lot of commentary on today's events."

"There's a handful of stories that are off-kilter but that probably have a point to them and it all comes from people."

"If you've been around goats all your life, you're going to come to the stage with one or two goat jokes."

"You can't really comment on society at large until you prove you are perfectly willing to comment on yourself and your own."

"It's like I've got to say something about black people because of the things I'm getting ready to say about white people."

I ask Reginald if he has been surprised by his success in Britain, given the marked and well-documented differences between the general senses of humour on either side of the Atlantic.

Reginald chortles and says: "As someone who grew up in Georgia, around people who have a lot of loudness and no subtly, I found the British sense of humour very soothing."

Reginald D Hunter will be performing *Some People v Reginald D Hunter* at Richmond Theatre on June 8 and Shepherd's Bush Empire on June 23 and 24.

For more details, visit reginalddhunter.com.

Rogue trader fleeced footy fans out of £45k

A "BRAZEN" rogue trader who flogged knock-off football programmes fleeced football fans out of £45,000 over one FA Cup semi-final weekend.

Brandon Davis, of Westminster, conned supporters from four teams on their way to Wembley into forking out double the price for his fake magazines.

The 52-year-old tried exploit a loophole in legislation by trying to sell 6,000 *Event Times* booklets under the guise of being newspapers for the 2015 semi-final games.

He charged £10 for each magazine – double the price of an official matchday programme – as fans were misled that Davis' knock-off mags were the real deal.

Davis and his company – Brandon Davis Publishing Limited – printed off the booklets before the trader commissioned a sales and marketing agency of more than 30 employees to sell the magazines over the two days.

The magazines also contained a number of registered trademarks, included the official club badges of Arsenal and Liverpool, which Davis did not have permission to use.

Despite lowering the price to £5 on the second day, the trader still stood to earn up to £45,000 from the ruse.

Davis operated during eventual winners Arsenal's 2-1 victory over Reading on Saturday April 18 2015 and Aston Villa's 2-1 success against Liverpool the next day, all played at the national football stadium.

He was branded arrogant and brazen by



Davis and some of his knock-off mags
Pictures: SWNS

a judge after being found guilty by a jury of multiple breaches of the Trade Marks Act but was not jailed despite the organisation and scale behind the plot.

One fan told the court how she was duped into believing the programme was official before being left disappointed and out of pocket when she realised this was not the case.

At Harrow Crown Court, Davis was duped into believing the programme was official before being left disappointed and out of pocket when she realised this was not the case.

At Harrow Crown Court, Davis was duped into believing the programme was official before being left disappointed and out of pocket when she realised this was not the case.

be ripped off by dodgy traders hoping to make a quick buck.

"The outcome of this case serves as a warning to others considering selling counterfeit goods in Brent, be it in shops, on stalls, on the streets or online, that crime simply doesn't pay."

"We want Brent to be a place where genuine and legitimate businesses thrive, and traders that flout the rules will be taken through the courts."

Trading standards officers have now started confiscation proceedings against Davis and the company.

On April 6, Davis was also ordered to wear an electronic tag and comply with a curfew from 8pm to 7am for six months.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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Style police set to be out in force off' against glamorous Letizia –

(AKA Duchess of Lace versus Queen of Leather)

THE style police are expected to be out in force this summer when Britain's most-acclaimed champion of vogue, the Duchess of Cambridge, is set for "a fashion face-off" with Europe's other contender to be the most glamorous royal, Queen Letizia of Leather.

Letizia, better known as the Queen of Spain, will be accompanying her husband King Felipe when they finally make their trip to Buckingham Palace, which has been planned for two years but was postponed due to political issues at home.

Queen Letizia is bound to set the paparazzi and bona fide professional photographers off in a flashgun frenzy as fashion editors all over the land and around the globe will be playing compare and contrast with the two royal beauties.

Steel yourselves for a barrage of articles from the fashionista Press as columnists churn out stacks of copy asking who is the most glam, Kate or Leti?

It's a tough call to make and it will be interesting to see what lace-favouring Kate pulls out of her wardrobe to "compete" with the leather-liking Spanish royal.

Spaniards are well-used to seeing their queen strut out in all manner of leather gear; dresses, skirts, jacket, jeans and even leather leggings have often been her outfit of choice.

How will Kate rival that? Will she be popping over to Stella McCartney's salon to get herself outfitted in non-animal alternatives, thereby at least commanding the moral high ground?

Who knows? More importantly, who is Queen Letizia?

For starters, she is a former journalist and news anchor who made the headlines herself when she married the dashing Felipe.

Letizia attended La Gesta School in Oviedo, before her family moved to Madrid, where she attended high school at the Ramiro de Maeztu High School. She completed a bachelor's degree and a licentiate's degree in journalism, at the Complutense University of Madrid, as well as a master's degree in audiovisual journalism at the Institute for Studies in Audiovisual Journalism.

During her studies, Letizia worked for the Asturian daily newspaper *La Nueva Espana* and later for the newspaper *ABC* and the news agency EFE.

After completing her studies, she spent some time in Guadalajara, Mexico, working at the newspaper *Siglo 21*.

After returning to Spain, she worked for the Spanish version of the economic channel Bloomberg before moving to the news network CNN+.

In 2000, she moved to TVE, where she started working for the news channel 24 Horas.

In 2002, she anchored the weekly news report programme *Informe Semanal* and later the daily morning news programme *Telediario Matinal* on TVE 1.

In August 2003, a few months before her engagement to Felipe, Letizia was promoted to anchor of the TVE daily evening news programme *Telediario 2*, the most viewed newscast in Spain.

In 2000, Letizia reported from Washington, DC, on the presidential elections.

In September 2001, she broadcast live from Ground Zero following the 9/11 attacks in New York.

And in 2003, she filed reports from Iraq



as Duchess of Cambridge 'faces Queen of Spain

following the war. In 2002 she sent several reports from Galicia in northern Spain following the ecological disaster when the oil tanker Prestige sank.

On November 1 2003, to the surprise of many, the Royal Household announced Letizia's engagement to the Prince of Asturias.

Afterwards, she moved to live in a wing of Zarzuela Palace until the day of her wedding.

The Prince of Asturias had proposed to her with a 16-baguette diamond engagement ring with a white gold trim.

She marked the occasion by giving him white gold and sapphire cufflinks and a classic book.

The wedding took place on May 22 2004 in the Cathedral Santa Maria la Real de la Almudena in Madrid.

It was the first royal wedding in this cathedral, which was consecrated by Pope John Paul II in 1993.

It had been nearly a century since the capital celebrated a royal wedding, as the

prince's parents married in Athens, and his sisters, Infanta Elena and Infanta Cristina, married in Seville and Barcelona respectively.

Letizia's bridal gown was designed by Spanish fashion designer Manuel Pertegaz, her bridal shoes by Pura Lopez; and the veil, a gift from Felipe to his bride, was made of off-white silk tulle and hand-embroidered.

As Letizia's previous marriage involved only a civil ceremony, the Catholic Church does not consider it canonically valid and therefore did not require an annulment to proceed with a Catholic marriage to Felipe.

Letizia and Felipe have two daughters: Leonor, Princess of Asturias, born on October 31 2005, and Infanta Sofia, born on April 29 2007.

Like Kate, Letizia was born a commoner, but there is clearly nothing "common" about either of them and a glam old time is guaranteed for all when the style queens meet this summer.

Geoff Baker



Steel yourselves for a barrage of articles from the fashionista Press as columnists churn out stacks of copy asking who is the most glam, Kate or Leti? It's a tough call to make and it will be interesting to see what lace-favouring Kate pulls out of her wardrobe to "compete" with the leather-liking Leti

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Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
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Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove		W10 5AA
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pick up points

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Pair given four months for Lamborghini smash

A RESTAURANT owner and his friend who tried to cover up who was driving a Lamborghini Gallardo when it smashed into a Mayfair shop have been jailed.

Talal Alkassab, 39, and Diyaa Lababidi, 33, lied to police to cover their tracks after the collision in Westminster, which caused more than £100,000 of damage.

Syrian migrant Alkassab, the owner and manager of Drunch restaurant, had just hired the luxury sports car.

He let Lababidi, who worked as a club promoter for the restaurant, give it a spin while he cashed up at work – despite the fact Lababidi had no UK driving licence.

Lababidi, who was joined in the car by a waiter, raced up and down Woodstock Street before smashing into a shop at about 12.15am on July 23 2015.

Neither was injured and they swiftly left the scene, abandoning the car.

The smash was only discovered when cleaning staff arrived at the damaged building the following morning.

Alkassab, whose father is believed to have died from a chemical attack in Syria, initially claimed an unknown customer had driven the supercar.

But after his arrest in November 2015, his phone was seized, and WhatsApp messages revealed the cover-up.

Alkassab, of Kensington, and Lebanon-born Lababidi, of Paddington, both admitted conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

At Southwark Crown Court they were both jailed for four months.

Richard Job, prosecuting, said: “The vehicle was driven at some speed down Woodstock Street, in a southerly direction, when

Mr Lababidi lost control of the vehicle and it collided with a building across the road from the restaurant.”

Alkassab left the restaurant and told his friend to leave the scene, the court heard.

A couple of hours later, at about 2.45am, Alkassab called an insurance company and told them he had driven the car and wanted to make a claim. Although details were taken, the claim was not pursued.

Alkassab later went to Holborn Police Station at 11.30am that day, and said a customer at the restaurant had taken the car without his permission.

Three days later, on July 26, he was served with a notice for intended prosecution, asking him to identify the driver.

But he told them he did not know who it was, and he was eventually arrested in November 2015, and his phone seized.

Mr Job said: “Police found on the telephone a large number of Whats App messages, in which Mr Alkassab and Mr Lababidi and other third parties discussed the collision.

“The messages show an agreement from the start between the two men and other parties to cover up the fact that Mr Lababidi was driving the vehicle at the relevant time.

“They demonstrate that Mr Lababidi is endeavouring to obtain monies to pay for damage caused to the vehicle and the building from various friends of his, to avoid having to go down the route of various insurance companies. It is plain that attempts were made to pay off the property owners.”

Lababidi was arrested in December 2015, and admitted he drove the car with his friend’s permission.

Jailing the pair, Judge Deborah Taylor said: “This was a deceit born out of a decision made by you Alkassab to allow Lababidi to drive the car when he was not insured.

“You both immediately decided to tell lies about it, to get yourselves out of a situation which was clearly going to be expensive.

“At that stage it was clear that sooner or later something would happen.”

Addressing Alkassab, she said: “This arose out of a piece of what was extravagance and bravado on your part, in hiring and allowing someone else to drive a car on your behalf.

“It was not only misguided loyalty as has been suggested that caused you to carry this out – but I have no doubt also the cost of it.”

In mitigation, Imkran Khan, representing Alkassab, said the defendant grew up in Syria, and spent two-and-a-half years in the army, before moving to London in 2000, and travelled back and forth.

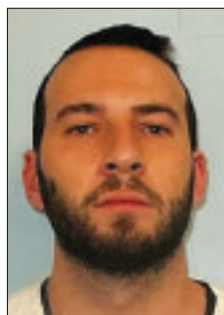
Alkassab, who has since resigned from the restaurant, covered up what had happened over fears Lababidi would be sent back to Lebanon, the court was told.

Lababidi, who has a Syrian mother, came to the UK on holiday about 10 years ago from Lebanon.

Lababidi, who has a previous conviction for fraud from 2011, last February admitted driving offences, following the crash, and was handed an eight-week suspended sentence at the time.

Charges of attempted insurance fraud were left to lie on file for Alkassab.

Above, the crash scene in Westminster. Below left, Talal Alkassab. Below right, Diyaa Lababidi Pictures: SWNS



Cops welcome killer’s ‘significant’ jail term

A MINIMUM 30-year sentence for a Latvian criminal’s “truly shocking and horrendous” murder of a mum as she made her way to work was welcomed by detectives.

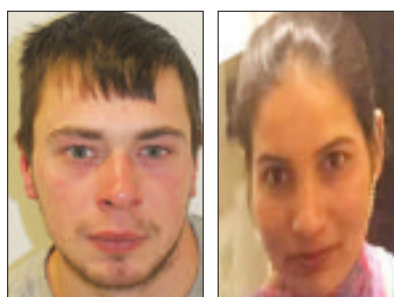
Vadims Ruskuls, 25, sexually assaulted and murdered 30-year-old hotel housekeeper Pardeep Kaur as she walked to work in West London last October. He then callously dumped the mum-of-one’s body on waste ground.

Pardeep and her husband, who lived in Hayes, both worked long hours while saving money to send to their six-year-old daughter who lives with her grandparents in India.

DI Jamie Stevenson, from the Met’s Homicide and Major Crime Command, said: “This has been a truly shocking and horrendous case and Ruskuls has proved himself to be a violent and dangerous rapist and murderer. Pardeep was walking to work, as she did every day, when she suffered a horrific fate at the hands of Ruskuls, who sexually attacked and killed his defenceless victim before leaving her body in woodland. It is everybody’s worst nightmare.

“Inquiries quickly led police to Ruskuls, and one of my officers was able to identify him from blurry CCTV footage of the attack taken from a distance. Ruskuls now faces a significant period behind bars, and I hope that this verdict allows Pardeep’s family to grieve and eventually come to terms with what has happened to this loving wife and mother.”

Ruskuls was caught after local PC Richard Lewis recognised the stooped figure in CCTV footage as the man he had spoken to the day after Pardeep’s disappearance.



Vadims Ruskuls has been given a minimum 30-year sentence for sexually assaulting and murdering mum-of-one Pardeep Kaur Pictures: SWNS

PC Lewis, who has been a police officer for five years, said: “A big part of my job, and the job of all Met officers, is remembering faces and names, and all the small details that could make the difference in a case.

“When I first encountered Ruskuls he was very unnerving, and I will never forget that meeting.

“So when I first saw the CCTV of this appalling attack, something about the suspect’s appearance and body type was instantly familiar and I knew that it was the same person.

“I am just glad I was able to play a small part in bringing a dangerous offender to justice, and do my job effectively.”

It is alleged between January 1 2016 and March 31 2017 she engaged in conduct in preparation for giving effect the intention, namely communicating with a person within IS, possessing a flight booking to Istanbul intending to travel to Syria, and self-radicalising.

She appeared in custody at Westminster Magistrates’ Court and was remanded in custody until April 28 when she is due to appear at the Old Bailey.

■ A SELF-RADICALISED 17-year-old girl who was in contact with IS and tried to fly to Istanbul to join them has appeared in court.

The teen from Central London was arrested along with a 20-year-old woman by anti-terror detectives in August last year.

The girl was charged with the intention of committing acts of terrorism.

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Praise for Alfie's sweet gesture

AN eight-year-old boy has been praised by thousands after he handed sweets to police lining the streets before PC Keith Palmer's funeral.

Alfie Robertson ran over and offered some Haribo to solemn officers on the streets of London after he was taken to watch the procession by his grandparents. The heartwarming action came as mourners waited for the procession of the police officer killed in the Westminster terror attack.

Mum Avril Yull, 30, says she has now been inundated with touching messages from police officers, those affected by the attack, and fellow parents praising the kind boy's gesture.

Avril said: "We've had so many lovely messages, some from police officers who've served for more than 30 years saying they've never seen such a touching thing happen."

"Alfie's nan Trish and his grandad Stephen are both retired police officers, and his uncle Stuart is currently serving, so they took him to the funeral to pay their respects."

"He thought he'd offer one policeman a sweet but kept going until he'd run out, and then he wanted to get more so he could share them with everyone."

"He was staying at his nan's for a sleepover and they went out for the day but I didn't realise where until my sister saw him on the news."

"It's just really lovely. He kindly decided to share the sweets and it's gone viral online. It makes me very, very proud, and I'm gobsmacked that something so small that could have gone unnoticed has been picked up by so many people."

"I don't want to take away from the funeral, because a police officer has died and people were there to remember and honour him, but Alfie making such a small gesture has really touched people."

Avril, also mum to Evie, seven, and Arthur, one, says aspiring police officer Alfie has now been inundated with offers to visit police stations across the country. He was taken to the procession by his grandma, retired police officer Trish Robertson, 58.

Trish said: "We took Alfie to the funeral to pay

Alfie with mum Avril
Picture: SWNS

Inset, Alfie gives out sweets before the funeral
Picture: ITV News



our respects to PC Palmer and everyone else affected by the attack.

"It was something we all wanted to do, and we wanted him to realise what had happened."

"Alfie was just eating his Tangfastics when he saw a sergeant looking at him, so Alfie gave him one. Then the police officer next to him looked to see what had happened, and Alfie gave him one too."

"Alfie walked all the way down the line and gave out the whole bag of sweets."

"It was just a nice little act of kindness – Alfie wasn't the only one but I think the officers appreciated the sweets because they were so hungry. I was so shocked when it was on the news – someone rang me and told me. It's been overwhelming."

Alfie has also been invited to the Houses of Parliament, and his mum says it's unbelievable how much

attention his kindness has attracted. Avril said:

"He's had an offer from almost every police station in the country to go and visit for a tour and he's been invited to go and meet the mounted police in Lewisham."

"He's been asked to go to the Houses of Parliament and some of PC Palmer's colleagues have contacted us thanking us and saying how proud he would be. Alfie is most excited about meeting the bomb squad – everyone wants to meet him."

"It's really lovely. I've had a lot of praise and people saying it's excellent parenting, just a lot of nice messages."

"Those police officers said he really brightened up a sad day, and they'd been standing there since 7.30am so they could probably do with a sweet. It's unbelievable how many people have contacted me."

'Miracle' boy Jasper's tricycle-ride joy

A LITTLE boy paralysed from the waist down after contracting hand, foot and mouth disease has made a miraculous recovery – and is now learning how to ride a trike.

Jasper Jones was a fit and healthy child before he contracted the disease in November 2014, which spread to his heart and left him unable to move his legs – because he got a blood clot on his spine.

He was diagnosed with an enlarged heart and admitted to the Royal Brompton Hospital, Chelsea, where he was put on life support.

When he was brought round, a blood clot had damaged his lower spinal cord and he was paralysed from the waist down.

Jasper's parents Kate and Felix Jones were told their son had paraplegia – a form of paralysis affecting the lower part of the body, most noticeably the legs.

Kate said: "We went to a Halloween party and there was a kid there with hand, foot and mouth disease, which Jasper caught."

"The doctor said it was nothing to worry about but around Christmas he still seemed a bit off, although it wasn't anything major."

"But two months after that we took him back to the GP and his heart rate was twice the normal rate, so we had to take him to A&E at the Royal Brompton Hospital."

"They found that his heart was enlarged and they couldn't get his heart rate down, and then it stopped completely."

"It's very rare for the virus to cause complications but he had to go on full life support because he wasn't breathing and they put him in an induced coma."

"It was devastating – we were told he wouldn't make it through the night. He was being kept alive and we just kept hoping he would pull through, which went on for about a week. They said his heart probably wouldn't recover and he was put on the list for a transplant."

Despite the odds being stacked against him, Jasper's heart made a miraculous recovery.

Kate said: "Suddenly his heart did recover, and they were able to take him off the life support – it was a miracle, the odds were against him."

"As he came round, his legs weren't moving, and a common complication of being on life support is clots. They normally go to the brain and cause brain damage but we were

Jasper and Kate Picture: SWNS



incredibly lucky that he was OK and recognised us. They think a clot at the base of his spine affected his muscles from the waist down."

After researching potential treatments, Kate came across the NeuroRecovery Network – a network of rehabilitation centres which provide therapy to those with paralysis.

However, these were only located in America at the time. Admin worker Kate flew to Kentucky in May 2015 with Jasper and her other son Elliot, who was only a few months old at the time.

Jasper received a type of physical therapy which is proven to promote permanent recovery of muscle function in people with spinal-cord injuries.

Kate and her two sons ended up living in Louisville for just over 14 months while Jasper received treatment. But Felix had to stay in the UK due to work commitments. He was able to visit them for a week every month.

Kate said: "We went for an initial three months and Jasper improved a lot, so we stayed on as long as we could."

"It was hard being apart from my husband – it was really difficult, it was almost like being a single parent for a while because he could only come for one week a month."

"Luckily my parents live in New York, so we had family members around who could rotate and help out."

"Jasper needed to get back into normal life, and it was untenable staying there eventually."

But they made the journey back to the UK in August last year after NRN named the Neurokinex Rehabilitation Centre in Crawley, West Sussex, as its first and only affiliate of the US. Jasper, now aged four, sees therapists at the centre five days a week for an hour a day, at a cost of around £500 a week, and has made drastic improvements over the last 18 months.

Kate said: "When we left England to go to America he pulled himself across the floor but then when we left America he could crawl fully."

"He can now climb on to chairs and has learned to use his tricycle which he does every day outside therapy and that is pretty amazing. Now he can ride with his friends at school just like the other kids which is great."

When at the centre, Jasper is put in a harness and suspended over a treadmill.

Three therapists, one on the hips and one on each leg, try to get him to walk by stimulating the sensory muscles. Brave Jasper has made incredible progress, with many muscles starting to work after being paralysed for two years.

Kate said: "He's making amazing progress – we went back to Kentucky for a check-up in February and everything has improved."

"They did an EMG which measures muscles to see if they are working, and between August when we left and February the muscles got stronger and the muscles that weren't working have 'turned on'."

"Some muscles which were completely paralysed have come back on, and apparently this just doesn't happen."

"We don't know if he will get the movement back completely, you just can't predict it, but we were told nothing would really happen after a year and two-and-a-half years later he's still improving."

"For two years, some muscles have had no connection and now they're coming on."

"In spinal-cord injury that's a huge advance, they'd almost been written off."

"What Jasper is doing, no-one in the UK has gone through it."

Millennials are sought to help launch Youthquake

YOUNG emerging artists, entrepreneurs and creative individuals are invited to help launch New

Youthquake, a project that takes its name from the youth-led music and fashion of the 1960s, and help put Portobello and Golborne Road Market at the centre of a contemporary youth-culture revival.

New Youthquake will launch over Saturday May 27 and Sunday May 28, during Love Your Local Market Fortnight. Here, young entrepreneurs, artists and performers will trade on 30 market stalls and present the up-and-coming generation's work and re-imagining of youth culture.

From Wednesday May 17 to Friday May 26, local arts, culture and creative organisations are offering talks, workshops and taster sessions to West Londoners aged 16 to 30. Most events are free of charge, and include:

- Goldfinger Factory hosting a social-media meet-up with the council's markets development officer on May 18;
- The Museum of Brands, Packaging & Advertising holding a customer profiling workshop on May 19 and a brand evolution challenge on May 26. Tickets are £12 per person with a maximum of 15 people at each event (concessions are available to participants referred via select New Youthquake partners including Clement James Centre, Rugby Portobello Trust, Epic CIC, and Job Centre Plus);
- The Rhythm Studio organising music-production taster workshops at the Kensington and Chelsea College Wornington Centre on May 20 and a local legends evening at Moncada Brewery on May 24;
- Portobello Business Centre offering a lean business start-up course on May 23 and a digital marketing and social-media course on May 25.

- Ferarts, a local urban arts company, running an interactive art workshop on May 26.

Recent coverage by the *New York Times* of London Fashion Week referred to London as a hotbed of young talent and singled out Molly Goddard for special mention. Ms Goddard is currently the recipient of a three-year artists' studio bursary, under a programme organised by the royal borough in partnership with Chelsea Arts Club Trust.

Anyone interested in getting a stall and taking part in New Youthquake should email maria.khamis@rbkc.gov.uk to discuss their ideas or follow the registration link at rbkc.gov.uk/newyouthquake.



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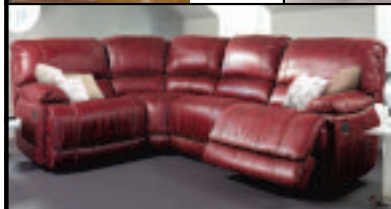
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Capital nights

THE winners of the Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017 have been announced.

Now in their 18th year, the awards are a key highlight of the folk-music calendar and serve to raise the profile of folk music.

Talent, new and old, received accolades including Folk Singer of the Year, Best Duo, Best Album, Musician of the Year, Young Folk Award and more. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Ry Cooder and Al Stewart.

American roots-rock musician and songwriter Cooder took to the stage for a rare UK performance, singing *Jesus On The Mainline*.

A career-long champion of folk music, he is renowned for his inspired slide-guitar playing, and through his own work and collaborations with others, from The Rolling Stones to The Chieftains and Buena Vista Social Club.

British singer-songwriter Stewart took to the stage for a performance of his 1977 song, *On The Border*.

He started his career on the 1960s London

**RADIO 2
FOLK
AWARDS
2017**



Ry Cooder

WHITE WITCH

by Barry Reckord



folk scene, and has worked alongside Bert Jansch, Jimmy Page, John Renbourn, Rick Wakeman, Tori Amos, Roy Harper and many more.

Appearing at the first Glastonbury Festival in 1970, he became known for his brand of folk-rock, which he combined with tales of characters and events from history.

He's best known for his 1970s hits *Year Of The Cat* and *Time Passages*.

Tony Blackburn presented Stewart with his award and regaled the audience with his own personal story of the star.

Blackburn explained that in the early 1960s, Stewart had in fact been the lead guitarist in Blackburn's own group, Tony Blackburn and the Swinging Bells.

Blackburn said: "We used to practise at my parents' house and, as good as he was, he always played his electric guitar far too loud as it always drowned out my vocals."

"The fact I'm here tonight will do Al's credibility a lot of damage but I don't care as I've enjoyed playing *Year Of The Cat* very much over the years and I haven't seen him in a long time. It really is an honour to present this Lifetime Achievement Award to such a talented musician."

The evening opened with a rousing performance by Afro Celt Sound System.

Across the night there were spectacular performances from Shirley Collins MBE (performing *Washed Ashore*), Daoiri Farrell (*Van Diemen's Land*), Jim Moray (*Fair Margaret And Sweet William*), Billy Bragg (*I Ain't Got No Home*), and Fara (*Three Fishers*).

There was a powerful and moving performance taken from the *Ballads Of Child Migration*, which tells the story of the enforced migration of more than 100,000 children to Australia and Canada between 1863 and 1970. The specially curated performance was narrated by Barbara Dickson with original songs performed by Kris Drever, Jez Lowe, While & Matthews, Boo Hewerdine, O'Hoolley & Tidow, John McCusker, Andy Cutting and Michael McGoldrick.

Folk icon Woody Guthrie was inducted into the Radio 2 Folk Awards Hall of Fame, to celebrate his lasting influence.

Bragg performed a special tribute with a rendition of Guthrie's *I Ain't Got No Home*.

The celebration marked 50 years since Guthrie's death in 1967, aged 55.

The musician wrote some of the most enduring standards in the genre, with his life and work dedicated to supporting and documenting the rights of workers and the downtrodden.

Guthrie's songs have been covered by countless singers from Bruce Springsteen to Lady Gaga and he was a mentor to a young Bob Dylan and Ramblin' Jack Elliott.

Lewis Carnie, head of Radio 2, said: "Huge congratulations to all the winners of the Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017 – the calibre of all the nominees was outstanding. This annual event is a wonderful celebration of the vibrant folk-music scene and the show was spectacular, featuring some of folk's most long-standing, biggest and newest stars who Radio 2 is committed to supporting throughout the year."

And this year the winners were...

- Folk Singer Of The Year: Kris Drever
- Best Duo: Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton
- Best Group: The Furrow Collective
- Best Album: *Songs Of Separation* by Songs of Separation
- Horizon Award: Daoiri Farrell
- Musician Of The Year: Rachel Newton
- Best Original Track: *If Wishes Were Horses*

- by Kris Drever
- Best Traditional Track: *Van Diemen's Land* by Daoiri Farrell
- BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award: Josie Duncan and Pablo Lafuente
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Al Stewart
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Ry Cooder
- Hall Of Fame Inductee: Woody Guthrie

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Capital nights

THINK you're so funny? Here's the chance to prove your hilarity. The BBC New Comedy Award 2017 – the annual search for the future comedy greats – has launched, hosted by the home of radio comedy Radio 4.

The launch comes as Radio 4 announces the commission of a debut comedy series from Lee Ridley – known professionally as Lost Voice Guy – who won the BBC New Comedy Award in 2014.

“The BBC New Comedy Award offers new talent a springboard into the world of comedy and the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of some of the UK’s top comics, with past winners and finalists including Alan Carr, Peter Kay, Lee Mack, Sarah Millican, Russell Howard, Joe Lycett, Josie Long and Nina Conti,” gushes a BBC spokesman.

Sioned Wiliam, commissioning editor for comedy, BBC Radio 4 said: “The New Comedy Award has an extraordinary record of choosing the stars of the future.

“I’m really looking forward to hearing voices from all over Britain competing for this highly prized award.”

As applications open for this year’s competition, Radio 4 has also announced the commission of Lee Ridley’s debut radio series *Ability*, which weaves his real-life experience of living with cerebral palsy and speaking via a communication aid into a sitcom.

The series follows a successful pilot episode, which aired on Radio 4 in January this year, and is expected to air in 2018.

Ridley said: “Winning the BBC New Comedy Award was a life-changing moment for me, it was when I finally realised I might just be funny after all.

“Obviously, it was also the beginning of my radio comedy career, and I’m delighted that *Ability* has been commissioned for a whole series. I had so much

fun working on the pilot episode with lots of talented people, so I can’t wait to start work on the rest.”

The winner of this year’s BBC New Comedy Award will take home £1,000 and a 15-minute script commission from BBC Studios.

All finalists will be mentored by the BBC Studios comedy team across the year and receive advice, guidance and the chance to write for and appear in slots across the BBC.

Entrants need to submit a five-minute comedy routine and complete the application form before the closing date of Thursday May 4.

The best 60 entries will be selected for six regional heats, taking place across June and July in locations in London, Manchester and Cardiff, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4 Extra.

Mark Watson will once again host the semi-finals and final at Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year, with the final broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday August 13.

Joining Watson to crown this year’s winner will be an expert panel of judges, comprising stalwarts of the comedy world.

Other recent winners of the BBC New Comedy Award include 2011’s Angela Barnes, who took over as host of Radio 4 Extra’s *Newsjack* this year; 2012’s Lucy Beaumont, whose second series of *To Hull And Back* aired on Radio 4 last year; 2013’s Steve Bugeja who has supported Russell Kane on his tour and contributed material to a number of BBC television and radio comedy shows; and 2015’s Yuriko Kotani, who recently made her television acting debut in *Pls Like* on BBC Three.

All applicants must submit an audio recording of themselves performing a five minute comedy routine – sketch, music or stand up – by uploading according to instructions at bbcna.monterosa.co.uk.

**BBC
NEW
COMEDY
AWARD
2017**

Lucy Beaumont (main photo), Lee Ridley and Angela Barnes are recent winners



IT’S not quite the peerage that he richly deserves, but everybody’s favourite drummer – the legend who is Charlie Watts – will be honoured in London this week.

The lynchpin of The Rolling Stones, hailed by Keith Richards as the secret of the band’s sound, will be the recipient of the treasured Gold Award at the 2017 Jazz FM Awards.

Naturally, Stones-watchers are wondering whether Richards or indeed Sir Mick Jagger will be among the crowd at the awards do at Shoreditch Town Hall on April 25. One would hope so, as the best-dressed man in rock’n’roll certainly deserves their applause for his six decades of being the backbeat to their success.

In most rock’n’roll bands, the rest of the musicians always follow the drummer. But it is said that the secret of the Stones’ sound is that Watts always follows Richards. Although as Richards says he plays to Watts, the exact formula for the mystery of their marvellous work is not entirely clear.

Whatever, it will be good to see the quiet man of the band getting his gong to doubtless standing applause.

Although rock has been his bread and butter, jazz has always been Watts’ first love and he is receiving the Gold Award in recognition of his life-long contribution to jazz and blues.

Watts has also been nominated for two awards

**Charlie
Watts**



with the Stones under the categories of Album of the Year and Blues Artist of the Year. He said: “I am very grateful to be honoured by Jazz FM for my contribution to jazz and blues. I’ve always loved

and been influenced by the music and its players. It was one of the reasons I wanted to be a musician myself.

“It’s still important that we continue to support

this music to ensure it lives on for the next generations.”

Watts, who once joked that Sir Mick’s backside is “one of the finest views in the country”, may be a little nervous on the night. He has said: “Even if I played in a bar with two people at it, just sitting at the drums gives me butterflies.”

The awards night, held on the 100th anniversary of Ella Fitzgerald’s birth, will be hosted by one of Jazz FM’s founding presenters, Jez Nelson, and feature a series of exclusive live performances including a special tribute to Fitzgerald from Laura Mvula, who is nominated for the first time this year for the Soul Artist of the Year Award.

Also performing on the night is US saxophonist and David Bowie’s Blackstar collaborator Donny McCaslin, as well as the PPL Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Georgie Fame, whose exclusive performance with Guy Barker heading up a band featuring Alec Dankworth, Jim Watson and James Powell was announced last month.

Artists who have been nominated for the 2017 Jazz FM Awards include Gregory Porter, Laura Mvula, William Bell, Wayne Shorter, Madeleine Peyroux, Gilles Peterson, Donny McCaslin, Anderson .Paak, Kurt Elling, Robert Glasper, Yussef Khamal, Soweto Kinch and Julian Argüelles, while *La La Land* and *Whiplash* director Damien Chazelle will be the recipient of this year’s Impact Award.

Talk of the town

PREVIEW

Pam Ann

at Leicester Square Theatre

THE A-list queen of the skies, Pam Ann, will fly into Leicester Square Theatre today and bring her 20th-anniversary show to the Central London venue.

Iconic international celebrity air hostess Pam Ann has evolved since first jetting out of her hometown of Melbourne 20 years ago. Pam – the alter-ego of Australian comedian-writer-producer Caroline Reid – has developed cult status with her masterful portrayal of a brash hot mess of an Australian hostess. She says as the airports got bigger, so did her ego... and her mouth filthier.

Pam's barbed wit has seen her fly many a risky route and negotiate even the most politically incorrect flight path, with her blisteringly funny take on the world of airlines and aircrew.

Nothing is out of reach of her pristine white gloves, strutting up the aisle with a trolley full of beautifully unpredictable, sharp airline satire.

There's not much Pam hasn't seen or done – from crewing Sir Elton John's private jet at his express request, sharing a stadium stage on a tour of the UK with Cher, and counting Madonna in her legion of devoted fans worldwide.

In 20 years, Reid, has racked up more flight miles than a tax-funded politician. A born entertainer, Reid's knack for selling out shows includes New York's Hammerstein Ballroom and San Francisco's Castro Theatre and extends to Australia, Poland, Germany, UK, Norway,



Scandinavia, France, Ireland, Canada, Switzerland, Finland and Dubai.

She has headlined at the New York's legendary Carolines on Broadway and in 2010 performed at the prestigious London Palladium, the Royal Albert Hall and sold out two shows at the 3,700-seat Hammer-smith Apollo – her largest solo audience to date.

In Australia, Pam Ann starred on her own television talk show, *The Pam Ann Show* on Foxtel. She also hosted the national live broadcast of Mardi Gras 2009 to an audience of two million viewers.

Among Pam Ann's greatest hits are an advertising campaign and training videos for British Airways and being the face of Skyteam Sky Tips for London Heathrow Terminal 4 (skyteam.com).

Pam Ann also performed on the first ever JetBlue – JetPride flight, a first on a US carrier.

Climb aboard and celebrate 20 years of Pam Ann – you can be guaranteed no-one does it better.

Pam Ann will be at Leicester Square Theatre from today until May 27. For more details, see leicestersquaretheatre.com.



Alfie Boe as Billy Bigelow and Katherine Jenkins as Julie Jordan in *Carousel*

FOR fans of traditional musical theatre, when one of the classics is revived there is always a mixed set of emotions and the hope that the production will fulfil a desire to see a renowned work staged to perfection.

Many of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals have lost favour with modern audiences, with their hammy stories and traditional music at odds with what is now expected from an all-singing, all-dancing stage spectacular.

It is therefore a brave producer who takes on one of the oldest and best-loved shows.

But following the success of the semi-staged versions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Sunset Boulevard* (which starred Glenn Close) in conjunction with the English National Opera (ENO), the partnership of Michael

Grade and Michael Linnit decided to add *Carousel* to their list. Casting two world-famous singers in the leading roles has helped to boost the profile of the show, with former English National Opera principal Alfie Boe and renowned soprano Katherine Jenkins drafted in to ensure audiences would flood to the London Coliseum.

Making the show semi-staged also gives the director Lonny Price licence to allow the music to be the most important part of the production.

But within that remit, his version of *Carousel* has become a bit confused.

This rendering of the tale of youthful love, loss and regret is neither concert nor theatrical show and unfortunately doesn't have a good fit in either school.

Yes, the music is sensational and the 40-piece ENO orchestra is magnificent, as is

the ensemble. But apart from that, the production falls flat and completely fails to deliver the highly emotional storyline.

Boe is dragged down by a road-kill-like hairpiece, which seems to have more life than does his character.

And although Jenkins does her best in her stage debut, her Julie Jordan lacks depth and is too polished.

Gavin Stokes and Alex Young seem to ignore the concert structure and thankfully enter into the spirit of the piece with gusto, while the ensemble admirably convey the youthful exuberance which is missing from the principal cast.

Worth a listen but not necessarily a look, this version of *Carousel* would have been better off being performed as just a concert.

Carousel continues at the London Coliseum until May 13. See eno.org/whats-on/rodgers-hammersteins-carousel.

ALBUM REVIEW

Golden Days – Kerry Ellis and Brian May

★★★★★

FIVE years ago, Queen guitarist Brian May decided he would produce an album for an exciting new artist he had discovered. That artist was called Kerry Ellis and was well known to musical-theatre audiences in London. She went on to be given the title of the First Lady of the West End and established herself as one of the most revered musical-theatre performers of her generation.

The album May produced was called *Anthems* and signalled the start of a musical collaboration which, much to the excitement of

their legions of fans, has endured and seen them play to packed houses around the world.

The pair recently went back into the studio to produce a new 13-track album entitled *Golden Days*, which perfectly displays May's musicianship alongside Ellis' exquisite vocal ability resulting in a record filled with soaring melodies and rocking rhythms.

It's an eclectic mix with something for all of their different types of fans, from power ballads to classic covers and even a musical-theatre standard put in for good measure.

Highlights include a poppy melody written by the partnership called *The Kissing Me Song*, a rousing version of Phil Lynott and Gary Moore's *Parisienne Walkways* and a song they have performed live on

many occasions and which highlights the pair's devotion to animal rights, John Barry and Don Black's *Born Free*.

Musical-theatre fans will simply adore Ellis' rendition of *If I Loved You*, from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, which is performed with just an acoustic guitar to give a melancholic and heart-wrenching sound.

And there is an interesting addition to the track list, with the psychedelic *Love In A Rainbow* complete with sitar accompaniment.

This album is another triumph for the team of May and Ellis and is almost guaranteed to be a hit.

Golden Days was released on April 7.



Brian May and Kerry Ellis

Nicky Sweetland

Talk of the town

THERE has been a resurgence of the acclaimed work of playwright Edward Albee in recent months. His three-act epic exposition of marital life, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, has once again been met with audience approval with a revival starring Imelda Staunton at the Harold Pinter Theatre. And this week a production of his moral-testing play *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* opens at the Theatre Royal Haymarket.

The production is directed by Ian Rickson and boasts an all-star cast including *Homeland*'s Damian Lewis, star of stage and screen Sophie Okonedo and acclaimed actor Jason Hughes, who told me this rendition of Albee's work has been precise.

Hughes said: "What's so lovely about our play is that it seems to be a distilled and succinct solation of all of his themes, crystallised in this one piece."

"There's no interval – it goes straight through. It doesn't go on for hour after hour and he seems to have just distilled everything down into one very powerful piece of theatre."

Hughes was last on the London stage in 2015, when he was part of the *Our Country's Good* at the National Theatre.

More recently he has been concentrating on television work and has been seen on our screens in the Sunday-night drama series *Death in Paradise*.

Hughes said about the television show: "They pay you really well and you get to go to Guadalupe. I ended up being there for two weeks and it's absolutely stunning there."

The Goat, or Who is Sylvia? is a deeply tragic portrayal of a couple and their teenage son in crisis when the father embarks on an improbable and impossible love affair from which there is no return.

"It really is structured like a classical Greek tragedy," said Hughes.

"You can really see the elements in there, so it's interesting because it's very naturalistic but it's also epic and it's got these incredible rhythms and these incredible riffs."

"It also packs this incredible emotional punch and it's also so black and darkly humorous that you just don't know where you're going with it."

Hughes plays Ross Tuttle, a very old-school friend of Martin (Lewis) and a documentary

filmmaker. His friend of 40 years is about to be awarded a Pritzker Prize, celebrate his 50th birthday and design a \$200 billion project all at once. So the opportunistic Ross takes the chance to get an exclusive interview.

"As a close friend I've jumped in there and got an exclusive; I've gone to the house to interview him for my show, which is good for him and good for my show," said Hughes.

"It doesn't go very well, unfortunately, and things start to go badly wrong in the interview."

"Ross starts to slowly realise that things aren't quite right and something is wrong with Martin."

The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?

is widely regarded as Albee's late masterpiece and is brought back to the London stage following the playwright's recent death.

So I asked Hughes if there is a pressure to succeed given the material they are performing and the celebrity status of the cast.

Hughes said: "We have to just lock into each other and deliver the play as dynamically as we can. I think that's the way you're going to get the best out of the play and take the audience on a horrible but beautiful journey."

"I think it's going to be something like you've never seen."

"Your expectations are going to be really played with. It's something that's going to pull you in all directions."

"If you want to be excited, challenged and affected then this is the show to come and watch."

"These are the bits of theatre that come up every now and then and they're important. They need to be watched and they need to be seen and talked about because it's what makes this world a more interesting and better place."

The Goat, or Who is Sylvia? runs at the Theatre Royal Haymarket until June 24. For more details, see TheGoatPlay.com.

Nicky Sweetland talks with acclaimed actor JASON HUGHES

Jason Hughes as Ross in Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*
Picture: Johan Persson



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■THE Black Swan in association with Chelsea Theatre presents, for the first time in the UK, *White Witch* – a play by acclaimed Jamaican writer Barry Reckord.

It tells the story of a young white woman who falls in love with a black man at a time when their love is forbidden. The play

deals with fallout from their relationship from forced marriage to barbaric punishments which provoked communities and inspired uprisings.

Based on a true story set around Rose Hall in 18th-century Jamaica, it is a tale of mysticism, love, cruelty and revenge cast against the unforgiving

backdrop of the transatlantic slave trade. The play is described as powerful, moving, thought-provoking and a must-see.

White Witch is running until April 30. For more details and to book, call 0207 352 1967 or visit chelseatheatre.org.uk/whats-on/white-witch.

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Talk of the town

ACAST of West End regulars has been announced for the European premiere of *Working* at Southwark Playhouse. Gillian Bevan, Dean Chisnall, Krysten Cummings, Siubhan Harrison, Peter Polycarpou and Liam Tamne will lead the cast of the extraordinary genre-defining musical from Grammy and Academy Award-winner Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Godspell*) based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with the American workforce: *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do*.

The show has been adapted by Schwartz and Nina Faso, the creators of *Godspell* and *Rags*, with additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg.

This highly original and universal portrait of the American workday is told from the perspective of those that the world so often overlooks – the schoolteacher, the housewife, the firefighter and the waitress, among many – whose daily grind and aspirations reflect the truths of the people who make up a nation.

Working employs a range of musical styles and genres from contributing composers, including five-time Grammy Award-winner James Taylor and Pulitzer Prize-winner Lin-Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*, *In The Heights*) as well as Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers and Susan Birkenhead.

Working first opened on Broadway in 1978, under the direction of Schwartz, with a cast including Patti LuPone, Bob Gunton, Joe Mantegna, David Patrick Kelly and Rex Everhart.

The show has since undergone several revisions, with additional songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda being introduced in 2009.

Working was last performed off-Broadway in December 2012, under the direction of Gordon Greenberg (*Holiday Inn*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*).

Bevan played regular Clare Hunter in the Channel 4 series *Teachers*. Her other television credits include recurring roles in *Holby City* (BBC One) and *Doctors* (BBC One).

She recently played the title role in the RSC's production of *Cymbeline*.

Her previous theatre credits include the Witch in *Into the Woods* (Manchester Royal Exchange), Mrs Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* (West End), Polonia in *Hamlet* (Manchester Royal Exchange) and Road Show (Menier Chocolate Factory).

Cummings originated the role of Mimi Marquez in the West End production of *Rent*,

for which she received an Olivier Award nomination. She also played the role on Broadway. She most recently appeared in the arena tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Chisnall is currently playing the Narrator in the UK tour of *Blood Brothers*. His previous theatre credits include the title role in *Shrek the Musical* (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and national tour), *Love Never Dies* (Adelphi Theatre), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Playhouse Theatre) and *Never Forget* (Savoy).

Harrison most recently starred as Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (Savoy Theatre and Phoenix Theatre).

Her other notable theatre credits include Lorene in *From Here to Eternity* (Shaftesbury Theatre), Sally Simpson in *Tommy* (Prince Edward Theatre) and Rizzo in *Grease* (Piccadilly Theatre).

Polycarpou has a wide range of theatre, television and film credits to his name.

He recently appeared



Peter Polycarpou

red as Buddy Fiddler in *City of Angels* (Donmar Warehouse), Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* (Chichester Festival Theatre) and Inspector Messiter in *The Magistrate* (National Theatre).

He was part of the original casts of Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil's *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* and played Ali Hakim in the National Theatre's Olivier Award-winning stage and film production of *Oklahoma!* alongside Hugh Jackman and Maureen Lipman.

Polycarpou played regular Chris Theodopolopodous in BBC One comedy *Birds of a Feather* from 1990 to 1994 and appeared in the film adaptation of *Evita* starring Madonna, as well as the 2004 musical film *De-Lovely*.

Tamne most recently starred as Frank N Furter in the UK tour of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

His other theatre credits include Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre), Enjolras in *Les Misérables* (The Queen's Theatre) and Link Larkin in *Hairspray* (Shaftesbury Theatre).

He was part of team Will.I.Am on the BBC's *The Voice* in 2013.

Working will open at Southwark Playhouse on June 7, with previews from June 2, for a strictly limited season ending on July 8. For more details, see southwarkplayhouse.co.uk.

Gillian Bevan will star in *Working* this summer



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Liam Tamne

Talk of the town

Nicky
Sweetland
reviews

42nd STREET
at Theatre Royal,
Drury Lane

★★★★

REVIEW Consent

at the National Theatre

★★★★

ONE in 20 women under the age of 60 has been raped or sexually assaulted – but the figures from the Office for National Statistics and the Home Office also state that only around 15 per cent of those who experience sexual violence choose to report it to police, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Nina Raine's new play *Consent* goes some way to examining the legal implications of reporting a sexual crime, by delving into the lives of a group of lawyers who, on the surface, believe themselves to be above reproach but who, in reality, struggle to find the difference between right and wrong.

Raine has cleverly illustrated a blurred line, not only between men and women but also between social classes, as we meet barristers Edward (Ben Chaplin) and Tim (Pip Carter), friends who find themselves on opposite sides of a court case.

Along with their partners, they quite literally sit in judgement over their wards during a social gathering, and talk with mouths full of disdain about the alleged victims and perpetrators as if they are characters in a soap opera.

It's as if they are on Mount Olympus with Zeus and his buddies, extricating every last argument from a moral narrative in order to feel superior to the beings below.

Only when their own relationships begin to dissolve do we see the human side to these characters, with Chaplin's logical and



Ben Chaplin as Edward in *Consent*
Picture: Sarah Lee

unemotional Edward finding his compassion following a client's suicide. Heather Craney delivers an embittered and heartbreaking monologue to plead to his conscience.

Even when his own marriage to Kitty (the excellent Anna Maxwell Martin) takes a turn for the worse and the examination of sexual consent becomes a personal one, the dialogue is cleverly delivered as if summing up in court and the way in which our legal system is detached from the real world becomes all the more apparent.

Raines is able to add wit to even the darkest subject matter, while simultaneously commenting on social stereotypes, which tests our own moral compass.

As a result, this production is powerful yet entertaining and will leave you scrutinising where and to whom you make judgements within your own life.

Consent is running at the National Theatre until May 17. For more details, visit nationaltheatre.org.uk.



Picture: Stuart Neal

HERE'S something very special about watching 50 people moving in unison – and *42nd Street* boasts a tornado of tap-dancing talent, which is so mesmerising that you'll forgive the show's lack of a tangible storyline.

The faux period musical – the show is set in the 1930s but was written and first performed in the 1980s – has all of the razzle-dazzle and glamour needed to make it a classic, with Harry Warren's catchy melodies, a bold set design by Douglas W Schmidt, and more sequins than you can shake a stick at.

Compared to its West End counterparts – the other all-singing, all-dancing spectacles *Half a Sixpence* and *An American in Paris* – *42nd Street*'s distinct lack of plot from the woeful book by Michael Stewart

and Mark Bramble makes it sadly pale into insignificance.

They have certainly thrown a lot of dollars at this production and there are more than a few nods to the beloved Hollywood films of yesteryear, with plenty of Busby Berkeley moments including a classic kaleidoscope routine using an enormous mirror to give the illusion of symmetry.

And the show has the feel of a big-budget Broadway musical, with high-kicking ensemble numbers who are mightily impressive, as is Clare Halse as Peggy Sawyer, the chorus girl plucked from obscurity to become the star of the show.

Halse moves like a dream and leads the ensemble in some simply breathtaking sequences.

It's not just the chorus line that's notable either. Sheena Easton – making her West

End debut – proves she's still got a great set of pipes and stage stalwarts Christopher Howell and Emma Caffrey enthusiastically deliver what little humour they can extract from the thinly structured script.

I'm also able to look past the myriad of outdated and downright chauvinist lyrics (particularly in *Dames* and *Keep Young and Beautiful*).

But in the end, the lack of narrative and shallowness of the characters leave it all feeling a bit empty.

In fact, in the song *Dames*, Billy utters the immortal line "But who cares if there's a plot or not?" It turns out that I do.

That said, *42nd Street* is a spectacular show and has a cast of stars who do a good job of delivering the superficial material.

42nd Street is running at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. For more details, visit 42ndstreetmusical.co.uk.

PREVIEW Five Guys Named Moe at Marble Arch pop-up theatre

UNDERBELLY Productions have confirmed that a new production of Clarke Peters' Olivier Award-winning and Tony-Award nominated musical *Five Guys Named Moe* will open in September in a new pop-up theatre for London in Marble Arch.

First seen at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in 1990, it transferred to the West End and played for four years, subsequently playing on Broadway from 1992.

Peters' (*The Wire*, *Treme*, *Person of Interest*, *The Ice Man Cometh*) career-defining musical features the irresistible hits of trailblazing "King of the Jukebox" Louis Jordan, including *Early*

In The Morning, *Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby*, *Choo Choo Ch'Boogie* and *Saturday Night Fish Fry*. The soundtrack of soul, blues, gospel and early r'n'b is performed on stage by a live band.

The Marble Arch Theatre is being designed specifically for the production and will transport the audience back to the engrossing jazz bars of 1940s New Orleans. A circular auditorium will ensure that the action takes place all around the theatre and pre- and post-performance drinks never felt so good in the theatre's authentic 1940s foyer cocktail bar. The band is playing, the bourbon is flowing, so come and join the party.

The production, which is to be directed by Peters and features the hits of jazz legend Jordan, will have an initial booking period from August 28 to November 25.

Cameron Mackintosh said: "I am really thrilled that Underbelly are pro-

ducing a brand new production of *Five Guys Named Moe* in London this year. It's a show that brought fun and joy to audiences in the West End for many years so it's great to see its return for its 25th anniversary. I am particularly excited that this new production is being staged in a Spiegeltent theatre specifically tailored for *Five Guys* so that Underbelly's unique style will give audiences and the show a special intimate experience which will definitely make it the best party in town – a party which I'm delighted to support Underbelly in throwing."

Peters said: "It's a rare and wonderful thing to have the chance to direct a show that not only you have created but also performed in. It's a show that is very close to my heart and soul and is so much of who I am."

"It's an honour to return to it on its 25th anniversary and reimagine the show in this new theatre space; one

which is perfect for creating a closeness and dynamic energy between the story and the audience. Further to this it's a treat to be working with a fantastic creative team and I can't wait to transport audiences into the magical world of rhythm and blues. This rhythm will lift one and all from their blues."

Robert Davis, Westminster City Council deputy leader, said: "Westminster City Council is delighted to be working with Underbelly Productions to bring *Five Guys Named Moe* to Marble Arch in its very own, bespoke theatre. Bringing this internationally acclaimed musical to this world-renowned, iconic space is a mouth-watering prospect that will increase the cultural offer available to residents, businesses and visitors."

Five Guys Named Moe will begin previews at the new pop-up theatre on August 29. For more details, see fiveguysmusical.com.



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- Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole deal in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that have been allowed will be reclaimed.
- Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that have been allowed will be reclaimed. Should legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1968.
- Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect of an advertisement should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.
- All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.
- All digital services are provided in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers' control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
- The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
- The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partly by the Publishers belongs to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for circulation of trade correspondence. Original instructions, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. box no., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in "trade" advertisements, other than equipment and business opportunities.

Building & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number since are not permitted.

Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search of a credit reference agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these agencies to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing orders.

Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Capital Media Newspapers Ltd or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Data may be recorded or monitored for tracing purposes.

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Cars,
Homes
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local
newspaper**

Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE A4 GLA ROAD (BROMPTON ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN AND SUSPENSION) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
 - The purpose of the Order is to enable cabling works to take place on A4 Brompton Road
 - The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - (1) turning right into Beauchamp Place from A4 Brompton Road;
 - (2) stopping in the loading bay outside 187-191 A4 Brompton Road
- The Order will be effective at certain times from 10:30 PM on 18th April 2017 until 4:30 AM on 19th April 2017 or when those works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
 - At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via Brompton Road, Sloane Street, Pont Street, Beauchamp Place to normal route of travel.

Dated this 18th day of April 2017

Mufu Durowaju
Network Impact Management Team Manager, Road Space Management - Operations
Transport for London

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

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020 8768 4920**

Major ANTHONY NEWTON BELL (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 21 Jameson Street, London W8 7SH, who died on 15/09/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Bircham Dyson Bell LLP
50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL
Ref: PJC/165591.0001

To advertise in this section, please call
020 8768 4919

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (BEADON ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the running of H&F Eco fair to be held on the Lyric Square; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would temporarily suspend the loading bay on the above named road.
- Whilst the event is in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the loading bay on the south-western side of Beadon Road, alongside the Lyric Square, shall be suspended.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 26th April 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- The event would be expected to commence on Wednesday 26th April 2017 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

KATHLEEN ANNE LENNOX POPE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Watlington Hall, Church Road, Watlington, King's Lynn PE33 0HE, who died on 13/01/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Mills & Reeve LLP Solicitors
1 St James Court, Whitefriars,
Norwich NR3 1RU. Ref: VKK

MICHAEL MARTIN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 6, Princes House, 52 Kennington Park Road W11 3BN, who died on 28/09/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Bircham Dyson Bell LLP
50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL
Ref: HVB/SPW/165560.0001

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM NOTICE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 123(2A) (as Amended) Land in Bishop's Park, Bishop's Avenue London SW6 (the "Land")

- The Land shown edged in red on the attached plan forms part of an open space held by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (the "Council"). The Land measures 557.7 sq m and it comprises the premises known as Pryor's Bank, London SW6 3LA, including footpaths for access circulation and bin storage areas.
- NOTICE IS HEREBY given pursuant to Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council intends to dispose of the Land by grant of a lease for a term of 125 years to the London Diocesan Fund. The grant of a long leasehold interest to the London Diocesan Fund ("LDF") would enable the local church The Parish of All Saints Fulham (which has been in occupation of Pryor's Bank since 2007 under a trust for the LDF) to expand its community services from improved facilities.
- The Council proposes to grant the lease with security of tenure under the Landlord & Tenant Act 1954 to support All Saints making further capital investment in Pryor's Bank.
- The Council proposes to give its consent (as landlord) for the tenant to build an extension within the land hatched black on the attached plan subject to obtaining a planning permission. The lease would prohibit the enclosure of any other land adjoining Pryor's Bank to preserve the existing access over it.
- Any objection to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:
Ian Ross
Parks Manager
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, c/o The Stable Yard, Holland Park, Ichester Place, LONDON W8 6LU

No later than the 2nd May 2017 (quoting reference RSD/IR/ PB)
Dated this 11th April 2017.

Ian Ross
On behalf of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham



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London Weekly News &
South London! & MERCURY!

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (THE CURVE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of The Curve, at its junctions with Lilac Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 18th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 18th April 2017 and last for 5 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 12th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION) (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. *) ORDER 20**

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "V") (AMENDMENT No. *) ORDER 20**

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (LOADING PLACES)(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMNT No. *) ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. **) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended in certain lengths of Laurence Mews.
3. The general effect of the above proposed Parking Places Zone V Order would be to introduce:
 - a) a new Controlled Parking sub-Zone (CPZ) "VV" in Laurence Mews which will operate a combination of 'Shared Use' and 'Permit holders only' parking bays from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm;
 - b) CPZ "V" resident and business permits will not be valid in CPZ "VV";
 - c) CPZ "VV" permit holders will be permitted to park in CPZ "V";
 - d) Any visitors wishing to park in CPZ "VV" will only be permitted to do so by displaying an activated and valid CPZ "VV" SVP in 'Permit holder only' bays in Laurence Mews;
 - e) Any visitors wishing to park in CPZ "VV" will only be permitted to do so by displaying an activated and valid CPZ "VV" SVP or a valid 'Pay and display' ticket in 'Shared use' bays in Laurence Mews;
 - f) CPZ "VV" residents can apply for a maximum of 1 SVP.
4. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Places) (Consolidation)(Amendment No. *) Order 20** would be to amend, the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Places)(Consolidation) Order 2009 so as to introduce a loading place in a length of Laurence Mews;
5. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders
6. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 12th day of April 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



**PLANNING (LISTED
BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS)
ACT 1990**
I give notice that
applications have been
made to the Council of the
London Borough of
Hammersmith & Fulham as
follows:
**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH
MAY AFFECT THE
CHARACTER OR
APPEARANCE OF A
CONSERVATION AREA**
**55 Coningham Road London
W12 8BS**

2016/04935/FUL

Replacement of existing single
glazed windows with new double
glazed windows at the front and
rear elevations

**50 - 51 Shepherd's Bush
Green London W12 8PS**

2017/01094/FUL

Erection of a part one, part two
storey rear extension plus
basement to provide an enlarged
breakfast room for use by hotel
guests at lower ground and
ground floor level and laundry
facilities, storage and utility at
basement level.

**4 Margravine Gardens
London W6 8RH**

2017/01260/FUL

Installation of three rooflights in
the front roofslope in connection
with the creation of a 1 x 1
bedroom self-contained flat;
installation of 2 no. glass roofs to
lightwells to front elevation at
ground floor level; formation of
bin and cycle stores to front
elevation at ground floor level.

**Opposite 11-15 Ryecroft
Street London SW6 3TP**

2017/01231/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical
charging points for vehicles and
1no. feeder pillar; formation of
3no. designated 'Electrical
Vehicles Only' parking bays.

**8 Harbord Street London
SW6 6PJ**

2017/01396/FUL

Excavation at basement level
under part of the footprint of the
property, in connection with the
creation of the basement.

**1 And 3 Durrell Road
London SW6 5LQ**

2017/01292/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at
ground and first floor levels,
excavation of the front and rear
gardens to form lightwells in
connection with the enlargement
of the existing basements and
installation of 1no window to the
side of rear back additions at first
floor level to both properties at 1
and 3 Durrell Road.

**Fiat D Second Floor
82 Lakeside Road London
W14 0DY**

2017/01213/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension;
erection of a rear extension at
second floor level, on top of the
existing back addition;
installation of 2no rooflights in the
front roofslope.

**41 Perrers Road London
W6 0EY**

2017/01301/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at
roof level; formation of a roof
terrace at second floor level to
the rear elevation.

**2A Shepherd's Bush Road
London W6 7PJ**

2017/01120/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at
first floor level.

**23 Emlyn Road London
W12 9TF**

2016/05440/FUL

Removal of existing front
entrance porch and replacement
with a new timber flat roof
canopy; and replacement of all
existing windows to the front
elevation with new white timber
windows.

**33 Rostrevor Road London
SW6 5AX**

2017/01423/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear
extension following the
demolition of existing
conservatory; excavation of the
front garden to form a lightwell in
connection with the enlargement
of the existing basement;
installation of 2no French doors
with Juliet balconies and 1no
fixed glass window panel to
replace the existing windows at
upper ground floor level to the
rear elevation; erection of new
external staircase from basement
to garden level at the rear of the
property; associated
landscaping.

**5 Southcombe Street
London W14 0RA**

2017/01432/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof
extension including raising the
party walls at roof level;
installation of folding sliding
doors to replace the existing
French doors at lower ground
floor level to the rear elevation.

**111 - 117 King Street
London W6 9JG**

2017/01110/FUL

Change of use of the first floor
from retail (Class A1) into
residential (Class C3); erection of
an additional floor at roof level;
erection of rear extensions at
ground and first floor level
following partial demolition of the
first floor level; installation of a
new door at ground floor level to
the rear elevation; conversion of
first and second floor level to
provide 7 x one bedroom self-
contained flats.

**14, 14A, 16, 16A, 18, 18A,
20, 20A Althea Street
London SW6 2RY**

2017/01451/FUL

Replacement of existing single
glazed softwood windows and
rear elevation doors with double
glazed uPVC windows and doors.
**Hertford House Wyfold Road
London SW6 6SJ**

2017/01390/FUL

Demolition of the existing single
storey plus-mezzanine floor level
dwellinghouse, and erection of a
replacement part one, part three
storey single family
dwellinghouse with a roof terrace
at roof level.

**72 Fulham Palace Road
London W6 9PL**

2017/01437/FUL

Retention of a single storey rear
extension and the erection of
railings above at first floor level.

**FOR CONSERVATION AREA
CONSENT (DEMOLITION
WORK)**

**FOR LISTED BUILDING
CONSENT**

**29 Ravenscourt Gardens
London W6 0TU**

2017/01413/LBC

Internal alterations at ground
floor level to include the removal
of existing doors between the
hallway and living room; internal
alterations at first floor level to
include the installation of a new
door, formation of 2no storage
rooms following the removal of
1no basin in the bathroom and
re-hang 1no door to the storage
room.

**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH
MAY AFFECT THE SETTING
OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED
BUILDING**

Anyone who wishes to make
representations about these
applications should do so by 8th
May 2017. See below for ways
of commenting on applications.

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
ORDER 2013**

**NOTICES UNDER
REGULATION 13**

**356 B Wandsworth Bridge
Road London SW6 2TZ**

2017/01378/FUL

I give notice that Ms Caroline
Marston is applying to
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
COUNCIL for planning
permission to carry out the
following development: Erection
of a rear roof extension; erection
of a rear extension at second
floor level over part of the
existing back addition; alterations
to the roof of back addition to
incorporate a flat roof and the
erection of privacy screen around
the flat roof at second floor level
to the rear elevation in
connection with its use as a
terrace; installation of 2no
rooflights in the front roofslope;
conversion of the first and
second floor level to provide 1 x
one bedroom and 1 x two
bedroom self-contained flats.

**Opposite 1 Merrington Road
London SW6 1RW**

2017/01317/FUL

I give notice that Mr Philippe
Fabri is applying to
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
COUNCIL for planning
permission to carry out the
following development:
Installation of 3no. electrical
charging points for vehicles and
1no. feeder pillar; formation of
3no. designated 'Electric Vehicles
Only' parking bays.

Anyone who wishes to make
representations about these
applications should do so by **8th
May 2017**. See below for ways
of commenting on applications.

Signed: **JO ROWLANDS**
*Regeneration, Planning and
Housing Lead Director*
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH &
FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make
comments and monitor their
progress on our website:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click
on the 'Planning Online' logo on
the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to:
plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of
applications using computers at
our office **RECEPTION FIRST
FLOOR HAMMERSMITH
TOWN HALL EXTENSION
KING STREET W6** between
9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to
Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments
on applications please E-mail
them through our website or post
them to **DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT SERVICE
PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL
KING STREET W6 9JU** by
the date shown above. Please
include the application reference
number and the name of the
planning officer. We will try to
consider any representations
received after the date indicated
but this cannot be guaranteed so
please reply promptly. For initial
enquiries call our information and
reception service on **020 8753
1081 or 020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about
planning applications via our
website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Ollie hammers 'pathetic' Rangers after latest loss

A FOURTH consecutive defeat for Queens Park Rangers brought a typically forthright reaction from their unhappy manager Ian Holloway, writes Tony McDonald.

Holloway described his side's performance as "pathetic" following the Good Friday 2-1 defeat to Bristol City at Ashton Gate.

Idrissa Sylla's stoppage-time goal was irrelevant after first-half goals from Marlon Park and Jamie Paterson had put the home side in control.

Holloway said: "It was inexplicable. A pathetic performance.

"Losing Hally (Grant Hall) was a big blow. He limped out of training yesterday but it's no excuse. I was expecting a performance similar to the one against Brighton.

"But not enough of the lads played well enough. That was the worse we've played since I've been back here. We didn't show enough fight or fire. I've just ripped their (the players') faces off about it. Where was the urgency? Where was the fight?

"I like my teams to represent my character and I have never gone down with a whimper in my life.

"Some of the things I saw in the second-half were incredible. When you are 2-0 down and you get a free-kick surely you run to the ball and take it as quickly as possible.

"Twice we allowed City players to pick the ball up and walk backwards with it. One got booked for time-wasting and the other didn't, but where was the fight from my players? Bristol City didn't even have to work for their first goal. It was pathetic – absolutely awful. The substitutes didn't even have an impact. We didn't even deserve to score today. We never looked like scoring throughout.

"I can't defend the undefendable. We have to come back fighting. That's what life is all about."

Perhaps Holloway was too downbeat to note that QPR's scorer Sylla came off the bench with 27 minutes left to play to notch his ninth goal of the season, albeit in the 96th minute. And maybe the Guinea international, who had scored 19 per cent of Rs goals before yesterday, would make a greater impact given more game time.

But continuity has been scarce at Loftus Road for many years. Since Holloway's return to W12 last November, only Huddersfield (77) and Wolves (75) have made more changes to their starting line-



QPR's James Perch and Brentford's Romaine Sawyers during the last meeting between the teams in October. Picture: Rob Newell

up than Rangers (74).

With their Championship status all but assured for another season, it is understandable that the manager wants to try different formations and personnel with a view to the next campaign. But Hoops' fans are growing increasingly frustrated with constant tinkering and four straight losses.

The lack of goals, particularly from midfield, is one concern for Holloway but so too is his defence's failure to keep more just one clean sheet in their last 16 matches.

LWN went to press before yesterday's home game against Sheffield Wednesday but, whatever happened, QPR will want to avenge their 2-0 home defeat by Brentford last October when they visit their West London neigh-

bours for the return fixture on Saturday.

■ AFTER months of pressure from Queens Park Rangers supporters' groups, the club has confirmed that it will host a special fund-raising match to help pay for ongoing care for R's legend Stan Bowles, who is suffering with Alzheimer's.

QPR's home pre-season friendly fixture at Loftus Road this summer will "commemorate Bowles' contribution to the club" he served with flair and distinction in the 70s, including a pivotal role in the entertaining side that finished runners-up to league champions Liverpool in 1975-76.

Following consultation with the fans' committee and dialogue with the Bowles family, this fixture – scheduled to be played on the

weekend of July 29/30, 2017 – will form part of the club's ongoing celebrations of its former players, in the wake of a successful first year for The Forever R's Club, the ex-players' association that was formed earlier this season.

Further details, including confirmation of QPR's opponents for the Stan Bowles game, will be announced in due course.

Since news of Bowles' deteriorating ill health broke in the summer of 2015 the outpouring of affection and support for the popular maverick – who made 315 appearances for Hoops between 1972 and 1979, scoring 97 goals – has been overwhelming.

Some 20 months ago, the Bowles family, in conjunction with QPR, set up an online Go Fund Me page to provide Rangers fans and the footballing public at large with the chance to show their support for the iconic former number 10.

The family encouraged supporters to split their donations between the Go Fund Me account – for Stan's daily welfare and ongoing care – and the Alzheimer's Society, the UK's leading dementia support and research charity, to help raise awareness of the disease. This week the sum raised by 264 people stood at £27,476.

Supporters can donate towards the Stan Bowles Go Fund Me account via the official QPR website (www.qpr.co.uk) or direct at www.gofundme.com/stanbowles

In addition, supporters wishing to keep abreast of all Stan related updates, should visit [## Chelsea](http://www.just-</p>
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FROM BACK PAGE

last October by a comprehensive 4-0 league defeat at The Bridge – Conte had no answers to Mourinho this time. Whether it was the injuries that brought enforced changes, conceding the early goal or the lack of "desire" he mentioned afterwards, the Chelsea boss cut a strangely subdued figure on the touchline, while the expensive measured suit and baseball cap combo lacked his customary sartorial elegance.

It really was a bad day all round for the men in blue but, to put the result into perspective, it's only their fifth defeat all season and a setback they must regard as a timely wake-up call rather than cause for panic.

The double is still within touching distance . . .

■ IT was sadly typical of Jose Mourinho to divert some of the media spotlight on himself with a few well chosen digs at Chelsea and match officials, while trumpeting his own tactical acumen, immediately following Sunday's game at Old Trafford.

The former Chelsea boss suggested that, had Ander Herrera not been penalised with two yellow cards at Stamford Bridge in March, his United side – not Blues – would have carried out his masterplan in the sixth round tie and be lining up against Tottenham at Wembley on Saturday (5.15pm).

Meanwhile, back in the real world, it's a London derby to relish and one Blues hope follows recent history between the sides in this competition.

Conte said: "We all know you either go to the final or you don't, and so we must put in 200 per cent to reach the final.

"It won't be easy because Tottenham now are the best team. They are in great form and they have a lot of enthusiasm because they are feeling the possibility of writing history.

"This is a game between two teams that are in contention to win the league this season. It'll be an interesting game. We have five days to prepare for this game and then play to win."

Chelsea and Spurs met at the same stage in April 2012, when Blues ran out 5-1 winners through goals from Didier Drogba, Juan Mata, Ramires, Frank Lampard and Florent Malouda.

In 11 previous FA Cup meetings, Chelsea have won five, drawn two and lost four. Their last defeat to Tottenham was in 1982 and, before that, in the 1967 final.

Fulham

FROM BACK PAGE

controversially sent-off against his former club just moments before half-time following an elbow on Mitchell Dijks. The Football League rejected Fulham's appeal against the decision, so the club's joint-top scorer, who has 10 league goals this season, will miss all but the final game of the season – the visit to Sheffield Wednesday for what could be a nail-biting finale.

Jokanović had been confident the club would win its appeal when he said: "Chris Martin did touch the opposite player with his hand but no moment of danger existed to hit or hurt him. All the time they were pushing each other and, unfortunately for us, the referee interpreted the situation as aggression and sent him off."

Midfield playmaker Tom Cairney became the first Championship player this season to register double figures for both goals and assists when he doubled the lead from the penalty spot three minutes into the second-half.

And although Cameron Jerome's header gave Norwich hope, in the 89th minute Floyd Ayite coolly stroked home his fourth goal in three games to seal three more precious points.

"We played 45 or 50 minutes with one player less than them," Jokanović added. "It's a complicated place, they have only lost three games all season."

On Saturday, Whites hope to keep their play-off bid on track with a visit to fellow promotion contenders Huddersfield Town, who were third in the table before yesterday's fixtures. This is the first of three scheduled league matches remaining for Fulham, the division's joint-top scorers (with Newcastle United).

"In this crucial, important moment we are in right now, we believe in ourselves, we play with confidence and we are fighting for top six. We will continue to fight and battle," vowed Jokanović.

Tony McDonald

Surrey double up

SURREY head to Edgbaston, Birmingham on Friday (11.00am) bidding to complete their first home and away double of the County Championship season over Warwickshire.

Just over a week ago Surrey opened their 2017 campaign with an emphatic victory by an innings and one run over the same opponents at the Kia Oval.

MIDDLESEX make their first appearance of the season at

Lord's on Friday (11.00am), when they host Essex in the County Championship. The defending first division champions will face an opening batsman back on familiar territory in the form of Alastair Cook. Now relieved of the burden of captaining his country, he guided Essex to an eight-wicket victory over Somerset in their opening game of the season at Taunton last weekend, scoring a masterful 110.



Alastair Cook is in top form

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Eden Hazard, who was man-marked out of the game at Old Trafford, in action against Manchester United's ex-Blues favourite Juan Mata. Above right: Slaviša Jokanović says he is focused on Fulham's promotion bid amid reports linking him with West Ham



Pictures: Rob Newell

Jokanovic dismissive of rumours

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM head coach Slaviša Jokanović says he will not allow speculation linking him with a move away from Fulham to derail Whites' promotion push, writes Tony McDonald.

The Serb, who guided Watford to the top flight in 2015 shortly before leaving the club, last week emerged as odds-on favourite to succeed under-fire West Ham United manager Slaven Bilic, whose future at the London Stadium appears to be hanging by a thread.

If Bilic is sacked in the summer, Hammers' co-owner David Sullivan would look to appoint a manager who, like 48-year-old Jokanović, plays a brand of attacking, entertaining football in the club's best traditions. The East London club, currently 13th, nine points above the relegation zone, would have no trouble improving on Joka's financial package at Craven Cottage.

Speaking at his press conference ahead of his team's Good Friday victory at Norwich, Jokanović said: "This is only rumours. We're in a crucial moment of the competition. I'm just thinking about my team, and I am concentrating fully on pushing my players to fight for their targets."

"I extended my contract a month-and-a-half ago. I am thinking about the immediate future, and that's the Norwich game that is in front of us."

Appointed by Fulham in December 2015, Jokanović signed a new deal last February that, in theory, ties him to Craven Cottage until 2019.

Meanwhile, Jokanović was also asked to address speculation surrounding the future of the club's brightest young prospect, 16-year-old wing-back Ryan Sessegnon. Jokanović stated: "I have information from the club's board that we are not going to be thinking about this step, and this player's not going to be in the market in this transfer window that's in front of us."

"His mind is clear, he's open to learn, he understands very well that there's a lot of interest around him but he managed this situation in a fantastic way, and I'm sure he's going to continue in the same direction."

"I am confident Ryan Sessegnon is going to be a Fulham player next season. All of us believe there is a brilliant, shiny future in front of him but at the same time believe he is in the right place to grow up and improve himself."

LWN went to press before yesterday's home game against Aston Villa but Jokanović was delighted with his team's start to the Easter weekend. Playing with 10 men for the entirety of the second-half, Fulham battled to an impressive 3-1 victory at Norwich City on Friday to remain two points behind the side just above them, sixth-placed Sheffield Wednesday.

Stefan Johansen put the West Londoners in front with his ninth league goal of the season, a low, left-footed drive from 20 yards after just five minutes.

But striker Chris Martin was

Can setback spur Blues?



By Tony McDonald

CHELSEA'S FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on Saturday has now assumed even greater significance.

Not only will Blues be looking to set up a final showdown against either Arsenal or Manchester City, who meet in the other semi-final on Sunday, they will want to seize the chance to inflict what could be a timely and telling psychological blow on the only team that can deny them the Premier League title.

Sunday's dismal 2-0 defeat by Manchester United at Old Trafford cut Blues' lead over Spurs at the top to four points with six matches each left to play.

Make no mistake, the West Londoners are still firmly in the driving seat at the summit and, on paper at least, have a much more favourable run-in. Antonio Conte's side have four home games remaining, including visits from the current bottom two, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

By contrast, in-form Tottenham play four away from North London, while their only two to come at White Hart Lane are against arch enemy Arsenal and Manchester United, who are also both chasing coveted Champions League places. Here is the top two's remaining PL schedule:

CHELSEA
Tues, April 25 – Southampton (H)
Sun, April 30 – Everton (A)
Mon, May 8 – Middlesbrough (H)
Fri, May 12 – West Bromwich Albion (A)
Mon, May 15 – Watford (H)
Sun, May 21 – Sunderland (H)
Blues picked up maximum points in the reverse fixture against all six above opponents.

SPURS
Wed, April 26 – Crystal Palace (A)
Sun, Apr 30 – Arsenal (H)
Fri, May 5 – West Ham Utd (A)
Sun, May 14 – Manchester Utd (H)
Thurs, May 18 – Leicester City (A)
Sun, May 21 – Hull City (A)

It would take a major collapse by Chelsea, and for Spurs to at least remain unbeaten, for the London-bound Premier League trophy not to end up back in SW6 come May 21 festooned with royal blue and white ribbons.

But the home loss to Crystal Palace at the start of this month and their poor showing at Old Trafford, where they were tactically out-manoeuvred and out-fought by Jose Mourinho's resurgent United, are warning signs that Blues will ignore at their peril.

The statos were out in force after a strangely insipid performance, informing us: Before this defeat, Chelsea had gone nine Premier League games unbeaten against Manchester United (W4 D4), last losing to them in October 2012. . . it was the first time Blues failed to muster a shot on target in a PL game since their 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford in 2007. . . Diego Costa hasn't scored for five games and not created a chance for a team-mate since the 2-1 win at West Ham on March 6. . . Blues have not kept a clean sheet in their last 10 PL matches.

Afterwards, Conte admitted: "For sure, I have to be concerned. I must be honest and say they deserved the win. They showed more desire and motivation."

"We must have greater ambition to meet a fantastic target. We must very quickly find the right solution and enthusiasm."

He was clearly trying to deflect criticism away from his players when he said: "It's very simple but in this case it is the fault of the coach. It means the coach wasn't able to transfer the right concentration, motivation, desire and ambition to win this game. The situa-

tion is simple today."

With Spurs having extended their winning run to seven matches with another emphatic victory, 4-0 at home to Bournemouth on Saturday, Conte agrees that the title race is very much on again and added: "It won't be easy."

The afternoon began ominously for the visitors when left wing-back Marcos Alonso was declared unwell during the pre-match warm-up, which necessitated a hasty defensive reshuffle. Kurt Zouma came in on the right of a back three (with David Luiz, centre, and Gary Cahill, left), while Cesar Azpilicueta started on the left flank but ended up on the right after switching with Victor Moses.

Conte had already been forced to bring in Asmir Begovic for his first PL start this season after first choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was ruled out by an ankle injury – reportedly caused by an accident while playing basketball for an advertisement but Conte was in no mood to offer any explanation.

To be fair to the Italian coach, he did not attempt to use these late changes as an excuse, nor did he complain publicly about the clear handball by Ander Herrera that referee Bobby Madley failed to spot in the build-up to United's first goal by Marcus Rashford in the seventh minute. You can't imagine his United counterpart choosing to underplay such a key moment of injustice against his team.

Herrera's first-half sending-off when the sides last met, in the FA Cup quarter-final at Stamford Bridge in March, proved costly to the Reds, who were beaten 1-0 on that feisty occasion. But this time he was their match-winner. As well as setting up Rashford, he scored United's second (courtesy of a deflection off Zouma) four minutes into the second-half and, most importantly, man-marked Eden Hazard – the player United accused of diving to get him sent-off in the cup tie – out of the game.

When Conte spoke of his concern, he might have been referring to Hazard's inability to break free of Herrera's shackles. The Spanish midfielder, who followed Mourinho's instructions to the letter, was a yellow card waiting to happen but Chelsea's most creative attacker saw such precious little of the ball that the game was 73 minutes old – and well beyond Blues' reach – before the inevitable caution finally came his way. Greater possession and dribbling by the Belgian playmaker would surely have elicited more physical attention from his ever-present shadow in red.

On the other flank, the threat of Pedro was nullified by Matteo Darmian. N'Golo Kante, a strong contender for PFA Player of the Year, was largely ineffective, while Cesc Fabregas and Willian were unable to provide any creative spark from the bench.

And the Italian must also be worried about Costa's continuing contribution, or rather lack of it. The spiky Spain international was too preoccupied fighting his petulant running battle with the equally irritatingly Marcos Rojo and Eric Bailly to fashion clear chances for himself or team-mates. With Spurs now boasting a superior goal difference of eight, Chelsea urgently need him to clear his head and refocus for the remaining games.

Conte's back three system has served him well for most of the season but it's not infallible. As Palace and now United have demonstrated this month, playing two strikers can reap rewards. Mourinho left out his top scorer, 17-goal Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but Rashford rewarded his manager's faith with a goal and, along with Jesse Lingard, their pace unsettled the visitors' back trio all afternoon.

After guiding his team to two previous victories over Manchester United – the controversial FA Cup win preceded

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